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SPALDING'S

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ATHLETIC SPORTS

THE

Art of Pitching and Fielding.



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CHICAGO

AND

NEW YORK.

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THE
ART OF PITCHING
—AND—
FIELDING.

A Work containing Instructive Chapters on all the Latest Points of Play in Base Ball Pitching

INCLUDING

SPECIAL METHODS OF DELIVERY, THE PHILOSOPHY OF THE CURVE,
THE TACTICS OF A STRATEGIST, HEADWORK IN PITCHING,
THE EFFECTS OF SPEED, THROWING TO BASES, BALK-
ING, PITCHING BY SIGNALS, BATTERY WORK,
CHANGE OF PITCHERS, TECHNICAL
TERMS USED IN PITCHING,

— TOGETHER WITH THE —

Best Pitching Averages and Records for 1885.

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New Rules for Pitching for 1886.

SPECIAL ARTICLES ON BATTERY WORK IN FIELDING. THE PITCHER AND
CATCHER AS FIELDERS. THE INFIELD. FIRST BASE PLAY. THE
SECOND BASEMAN'S WORK. THIRD BASE PLAY. SHORT
FIELDING. THE OUT-FIELDER'S WORK. BACKING-
UP. THROWING TO FIRST BASE. THE CAP-
TAIN OF THE NINE. HOW TO
CAPTAIN A TEAM.

✓ BY
HENRY CHADWICK.

ILLUSTRATED BY

GEO. H. BENEDICT.

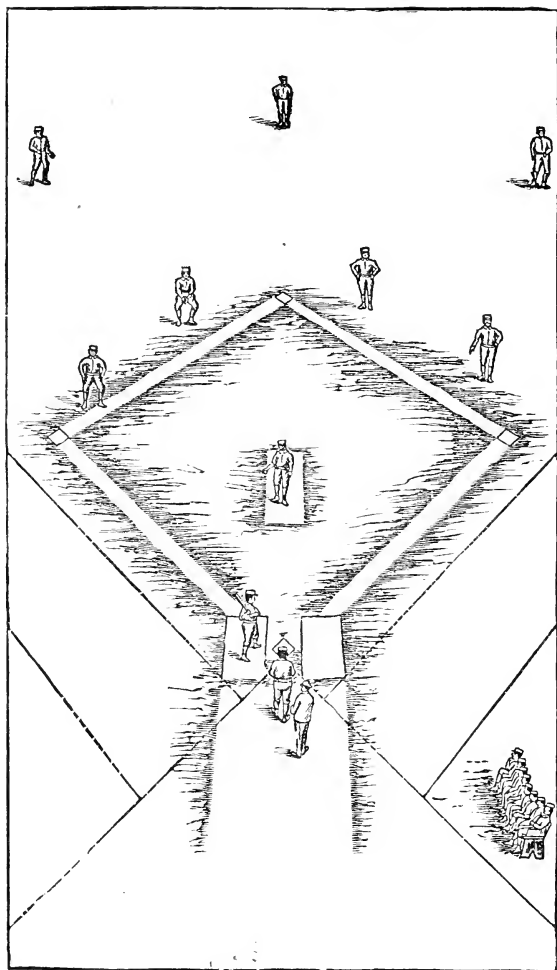
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BASE BALL FIELD.

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PREFACE.

The revised edition of "The Art of Pitching and the Art of Fielding," forming a part of SPALDING'S LIBRARY OF ATHLETIC SPORTS for 1886, contains a new departure alike in the form of publication and in the extent of the ground covered by the books. The new edition of the hand-books combines the works on pitching and fielding together in one volume of over two hundred pages, and the books on batting and base-running in another volume. To each work has been added the statistics of the past season showing the best average play in each department of the players of the National League, the American Association, the Eastern League and the Southern League.

This first volume contains instructions in the art of pitching and fielding, and the revision given it by the author, has led to a decided improvement in both works. The series of two volumes containing the four works of instruction, should be in the hands of every member of a professional base ball team, while it will be found equally of advantage for the amateur class of the fraternity. These books will be revised each year, and all the new rules and new points will be added, as also the past season's records of best averages, etc.



INTRODUCTION.

There are two ways of learning to play base ball; the one is to learn it for objects of recreation and exercise, and the other in order to become a noted and skilful professional exemplar of the game. The former involves but little trouble, inasmuch as the theoretical knowledge requisite for the purpose can readily be acquired in an hour's study of any standard work on the game, while an afternoon's practice on the field, in an amateur contest, will afford all the practical information necessary. To become a professional expert, however, not only requires an attentive study of all the rules and special points of the game but also a regular course of training in order to fully develop the physical powers, with a view to insure the highest degree of skill in each and all of the several departments of the game. This latter is a task which demands persevering application, fatiguing exertion, plenty of nerve and pluck, thorough control of temper, considerable powers of endurance, and, withal, the physical aptitude to excel in one or other, if not in all, of the four special departments of base ball, viz, *Pitching*, *batting*, *base-running*, and *fielding*.

The theory of base ball is as simple as that of any field sport in vogue, and herein lies one of its attractive

features. And yet to play the game up to its highest point of excellence requires as great a degree of mental ability, and the possession of as many manly physical attributes, as any known game of ball.

Professional ball playing has of late years taken giant strides in popularity; and this advance has been largely due to the fact that stock company base ball organizations have found it absolutely necessary to their pecuniary interests, in investing their capital, that the game should be played in its integrity. Honesty in the ranks was several years ago shown to be not only the best policy to pursue, but a vital necessity in the preservation of the very life of professional playing. "Crookedness" among professional base ball players has been weeded out from the fraternity by strong coercive measures; and the lesser evils which have brought discredit on the class, are rapidly being eliminated from the game by means of the repressive rules of the comprehensive "national agreement," which joins every well conducted professional organization in a combined effort to make professional ball playing an honorable occupation.

Within the last two or three years there has been a marked improvement in the character and standing of professional ball players. Tempted by the lucrative advantages of becoming a professional ball player, young men of marked intelligence and of superior education to the general class of the fraternity have entered the arena, and with the advent of this

latter class of men has come a higher degree of integrity in the occupation. In fact, it is no longer considered discreditable to engage in the occupation of a professional ball player as it was a decade past, when the professional exemplars of the game were a few of them under the influence of the pool-gambling element. And just here, let it be stated, that the professional stock company organizations never administered a severer blow to dishonesty in the ranks than when they prohibited pool gambling on all professional association club grounds. There never has been, nor is now, a greater evil connected with all American sports than the curse of pool selling, which is the blight of all honorable professional work in sports of all kinds. Fortunately our national game is sufficiently attractive to draw crowded assemblages of spectators by its own healthy excitement, without the extrinsic aid of the pool box to attract large gatherings of people.

THE ART OF PITCHING.

Of the four departments of the game of base ball,—viz.: Pitching, Batting, Base Running, and Fielding—the delivery of the ball to the bat is the most important. Indeed, the “battery” of a club’s team, that is the pitcher and catcher, is the main feature of the attacking force in a contest, and it is chiefly on the excellence of the “battery” work that success in a match depends. Of course, effective catching greatly contributes to a pitcher’s success; but the best of catchers would be of comparatively little avail, unless he was faced by a first-class occupant of the pitcher’s “box.” Therefore, the pitcher of a base ball nine is regarded as the principal player of the diamond field.

There are five distinct methods of delivering the ball to the bat in base ball, the pitcher having the choice of the simple *toss* of the ball, the *jerk*, the regular *pitch*, or the *underhand* or *overhand throw*. He also has the choice of the round-arm form of delivery, as practiced by the bowler in cricket. This latter form, however, is rarely used. The prevailing rule of delivery, is that of the underhand and overhand throw, the latter now being legal under all the codes of rules. With the choice of such a variety of forms of delivery at command, it will be seen that

the pitcher only needs to attain that degree of proficiency in pitching which will give him perfect control of the ball, as regards accuracy of aim, and the power to impart that bias to the ball which yields the puzzling *curve* in the line of its delivery, to place him in the position of being able to take every advantage of the additional aid strategy will give him in fully acquiring the art of effective pitching.

No pitcher can ever excel in the art who is not more or less of a strategist in his work. He may be able to send in the ball to the bat with unwonted speed, and also to add the "curve" to his delivery, and yet, from his ignorance, or neglect of strategic play, —or what is technically known as "headwork"—in his position, he will rank only as second-rate player in the "box." As far as it applies to pitching the elements of strategic play may be summed up as follows:—First, to deceive the eye of the batsman in regard to the character of the pitching, as to its being fast or slow. Second, to puzzle his judgment in reference to the direction of the coming ball, as to its being higher or lower than the height he wants it. Third to watch the batsman closely so as to take prompt advantage of his being temporarily "out of form" for effective batting, and lastly, to tempt him to hit at a ball so as to send it high to the outer-field, where the pitcher has placed one or two men ready to catch it. A pitcher who never resorts to strategy in his method of delivery, will go on, inning after

inning, sending in the ball with all the speed at his command, without thinking of anything but "pace" and the "curve" as elements of success in his work. Such pitchers are mere machines in their position, and in comparison with those who disguise their change of pace, watch the batsman closely, and who use "headwork" in their pitching, the mere swift curve pitcher is nowhere in his efforts to outwit his batting opponents.

The pitcher, *par excellence*, has not yet been seen on the diamond field, though the point of perfection has been approached at times. From the days of Creighton, of the old Excelsior nine of 1860, who then had no peer in his position, up to the season of 1886, some very fine work had been accomplished in base ball pitching, notably so during 1885. But the large majority of professional pitchers still have a great deal to learn—even in these days of the advanced condition of the art—before they can reach the comparatively high mark Creighton did in the earlier history of base ball pitching. After Creighton, came Martin of the old Mutual nine, the feature of whose delivery was his marked skill as a strategist, his forte in pitching being his *tossing* in a slow ball, which was either missed by the puzzled batsman, or sent up in the air so as to be easily caught. His most noteworthy successor, Spalding, of the champion Boston team from 1871 to 1876, was the ablest strategic pitcher ever seen in the "box," from the days of Creighton up to the time of the general intro-

duction of the swift-curved line method of delivery. The curve-line of delivery was first practically developed in pitching, by Arthur Cummings of the old Star nine of Brooklyn. It had frequently been noticed that many players in throwing the ball in from the out-field would throw it in such a way as to make it curve through the air, and in such a line of motion as to prove conclusively that the curved line was produced by some force other than the effect of the wind, or that of gravity. When this curve was practically brought to bear in pitching, it led to quite a controversy among scientific men in our colleges, such a thing as a horizontal curve being imparted to a ball in its passage through the air, having been regarded as an impossibility. It was conclusively proved, however, by a practical test in Cincinnati,—referred to elsewhere—and the solution of the problem turned out to be a very simple matter. The introduction of the curve made quite a revolution in the pitching department, and little else was thought of for a few seasons, as an element of success in pitching, until the batting began to recover from the demoralizing effect the curve had had upon it. Now, however, something more than either mere speed or the curve has been found necessary to give the attacking force a winning advantage over the defence in the base ball field, and it has been found necessary to combine strategy with the other essential elements of success in pitching. As before remarked, the three great elements of effective pitching in base ball, are:

First, thorough command of the ball, without which, strategic play in the position is next to impossible. Second, the power to send in the ball with speed, and also the power to impart that peculiar bias or "twist" to the ball, which produces the curved line in all its variations: and Third, the endurance to stand the fatigue of the work of swift pitching, and the pluck and nerve to coolly stand the hot fire of the hitting which marks a successful punishment of swift curved pitching by experienced and skillful batsmen. Combined with these is the great essential of strategic skill in pitching, without which element, no pitcher can ever reach the goal of complete success in his position. We shall take up these elements in regular order, fully illustrating the merits and points of each in a separate chapter.

ON COMMAND OF THE BALL.

The first essential in base ball pitching is a *thorough command of the ball*. A pitcher may possess the power to pitch swiftly, to curve the ball and the judgment to excel in strategy; yet of what avail are these essentials unless he has thorough control of the ball in delivery? Therefore the very first thing a novice in the art of pitching should do at the very outset of his learning how to pitch, is to obtain complete control of the ball in pitching so that he may be able to send it in just where he wants it to go. Especially is this command of the ball necessary in the use of the curve. Of what advantage



STRAIGHT DELIVERY.

Grasp the ball securely between the first and second fingers with the thumb on the opposite side, the other fingers being closed in the palm of the hand. Deliver the ball to the batsman with all possible speed, either by a straight throw from the shoulder or by an underhand throw at a level with the waist. In this, as well as all other deliveries of the ball, the pitcher should exert himself to retain absolute command of the ball if possible.

to a pitcher is the power to curve the ball, unless he can control it so as to make his delivery accurate, or to use it or not, as occasion may require? In fact, the full effect of the power to curve the ball can only be realized when that power is one the pitcher can use at will. It is frequently as effective to temporarily drop the curve delivery as it is to send in the curve ball when it is not looked for. Then, too, it is essential to change the direction of the curve from an "out-curve" to an "in curve," and from an "up-shoot" to a "down-shoot," and this can only be done when the pitcher has every such movement of the ball under complete control. Pitchers frequently have full command of one kind of a "curve" or "shoot" of the ball, while the other comes to them only by chance, as it were. This fault should be obviated by a thorough study of the subject, so as to remedy the difficulty by becoming as familiar with one curve as with the other. All this involves complete command of the ball and this point of effectiveness must be reached by attentive and constant practice before the pitcher can avail himself of the valuable assistance of strategic play in his position.

SPEED IN DELIVERY.

The effectiveness of mere speed in pitching depends largely upon the character of the batting the pitcher has to face, and also upon the ability of the catcher to stand the hot fire of the delivery. Weak and timid batsmen who fear the speed of the pitching too

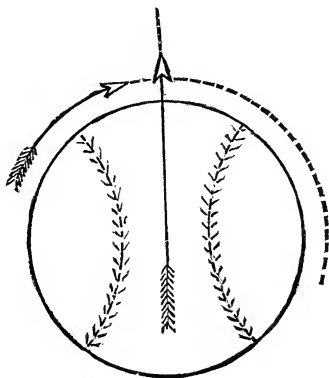
much to be able to use their judgment in facing it, and who only think of the best way to avoid being hit, can readily be intimidated by very swift pitching so as to be struck out with ease. But when a nervy plucky batsman faces a swift delivery, and brings his judgment to bear on the tactics of the attacking force, it is found that mere speed costs more in wild pitches, and called and passed balls than it yields in outs or strikes. Besides which, such class of batsmen frequently find opportunities to punish the mere swift pitching by quick wrist-play batting long before the third strike is called from it. In fact, speed in delivery is only advantageous when it is made part and parcel of strategic work in pitching, and not when it is the only feature of a pitcher's work in the "box."

There were several very striking illustrations of the inferiority of mere swift pitchers to strategists in the "box" afforded during the season of 1885 strategy taking an important lead over mere speed in delivery. The pitching of Whitney of the Boston club was nowhere in comparison, for instance, with that of Keefe, of New York, Clarkson, of Chicago Radbourn, of Providence, Buffinton, of Boston, and others of the noted strategic pitchers of 1885.

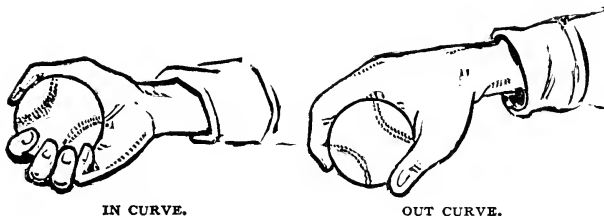
THE CURVE.

How to impart the bias to the ball which causes it to make a curved horizontal line in its progress to the bat, is a very important part of the practical knowledge of the art of pitching. A glance at the theory of the curve will enable the young pitcher to get the idea as to how it is done, and then he can very readily find out by practical experience the best way to carry it into effect. The theory of making a ball curve to the right or left horizontally in its passage through the air, is based on the fact that there is a retarding effect produced on that side of the ball which passes through the air quicker than the other side; and to produce this additional rapidity of motion a rotary movement is given to the ball as it leaves the pitcher's hand which causes it to revolve on its own axis horizontally as it passes through the air; and the natural effect is to retard its progress on one side, thereby causing it to make a curved line in the direction of the side on which it is retarded. That is the theory of the horizontal curve in pitching. Its application in practice is to learn to give the ball the necessary bias or rotary motion to the right or the left in order to produce the in-curve or the out-curve. For instance, the appended diagram illustrates the lines of direction of a curved ball, the straight arrow showing the forward motion of ball through the air, and the bent arrow the rotary movement on the ball's own axis. The bias to the right or the left, is

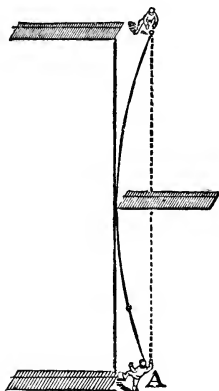
imparted by a movement of the wrist. It is impossible to describe the action of the hand and wrist in imparting this bias to the ball, the only way of acquiring a practical knowledge of it being by the example of an expert curve pitcher, or by testing it by repeated trials until the curve is attained. The diagram above referred to is as follows:



The methods of grasping the ball when about to curve it are shown in the appended cuts:



The following cut illustrates the effect of the curve, the diagram showing the in-curve:



A ball delivered by the pitcher from where he stands at A, if sent forward without any curve, would go in the direction of the dotted line, and would be stopped by the center fence. With the rotary motion imparted to it, as shown in the first diagram, it would curve to the left, making what is known as the “out-curve.” If the rotary motion given it is to the left it would go from the pitcher to the catcher as shown in the above cut, thereby producing the in-curve.

The effect of the bias given the ball in causing it to make a curve to the right or left, is governed by the speed of the delivery, as well as the rapidity of

the rotary motion of the ball on its own axis. Thus, as the speed of the forward motion of the ball relaxes the bias given it begins to take effect, and just as the rotary motion is rapid or moderate, so is the curve greater or lesser. The great point in curve pitching is to combine with the power of curving the ball that of controlling its direction so as to send it in over the home base, and at the height called for when occasion requires. It is comparatively easy work to send a ball in fast, and at the same time to curve it to the right or the left; but the great point is at the same time to direct it over the home base. Whenever a pitcher possesses sufficient command of the ball to admit of his sending in a swift curved-line ball just where he wants it to go, he becomes "a bad man" for any batsman to face, provided, of course, that with such command of the ball he also knows how to avail himself of skillful strategy in his pitching.

It should be borne in mind in using the curve that the speed of the delivery has a great deal to do with the distance from the hand of the pitcher that the curve in the line of the ball will begin to manifest itself, as also the speed of the rotary motion of the ball on its own axis. This is shown in the fact of the difference between the curve of a ball pitched forward swiftly, but with a comparatively slow twist imparted to it, and a ball pitched forward at a medium pace with a very swift twist given it.

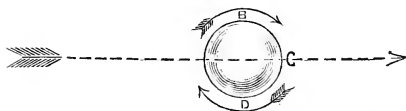
A student at the Naval Academy in a very interesting letter to the *St. Nicholas Magazine* of last Feb-

ruary, thus gives his experience of the curve in its effect on his batting. He says:

"I shall not readily forget the chill autumn afternoon, some twelve years ago, when in my first match game, played on the grounds of the Naval Academy, the reality of curved pitching was most forcibly and discouragingly brought home to me by "three strikes and out!" The "in-curve" was no new thing as an inconstant feature of the "underhand throw;" but this was my first experience with the "out-curve," at least, as a matter under the control of the pitcher, and not a mere unintended accidental course of the ball. Obtaining no help toward an explanation from those to whom I applied (on the contrary, many assurances that it was a physical impossibility), I studied the subject and promptly arrived at an easy solution, satisfactory to most persons with whom I have discussed it. As this may be of interest to some of your readers, I take the liberty of presenting it.

The ball in its flight is retarded in its forward motion by the resistance in the air, which acts upon it precisely as though the ball were at rest, and the wind blowing against it at a rate equal to the motion of the ball. This exerts a pressure on the front of the ball and a friction on its sides, just as the water so manifestly does upon a vessel. If the ball is merely moving straight forward, the friction is the same on top and bottom, right and left, and the effect is only to slow the forward motion. But if the ball rotates as well as moves forward, we have a changed relation—a part of the ball's surface is moving against the air with greater rapidity than the rest, as a diagram will make clear. If the ball (or strictly its center of gravity) is moving forward (let us say at the rate of one hundred feet per second) and at the same time it is revolving so that points on its equator are traveling around its center at an equal rate, it is evident that *d* is traveling *backward* as fast as the ball, as a whole, moves forward; while *b* is moving forward at its own rate *plus* that of the center—that is, twice as fast as *c*. As the fric-

tion of the air increases with the velocity of the moving object, it must be greatest at *b* and least at *d*, being really zero at *d* under the conditions given. The *b* side of the ball is therefore retarded more than the center or any other part, while the *d* side suffers no retardation. The result must be a curve toward the retarded side. When the rotation is on a nearly vertical axis, this effect will be at its maximum, and, according to the direction of its "twist," the ball will curve to the right or to the left—"in" or "out."



In this explanation the effect of gravity is assumed to be nearly a constant force, and not knowing the approximate velocity of "swift pitching," I do not attempt to consider whether the resistance of the air is proportional in this case to the first power, the square or the cube of the velocity. These points can affect the question of *degree* only. This is merely a solution as worked out by a boy, and possibly of interest to other boys. Looking recently at a treatise on gunnery, I found the explanation far more fully and scientifically set forth, with careful consideration of *all* the elements of the problem, in connection with the "drift" of a shot fired from a rifled cannon."

This theory of the curving of the base should be well studied up by every pitcher desirous of improving himself in his work. The more it is studied the more will possibilities for new points of strategic play in the position be developed.

The following cuts illustrate some of the positions in delivering and curving the ball, but it is only by personal instruction that the method of delivery can be effectively taught.



IN-CURVE.

Grasp the ball securely with all the fingers, the thumb pressed firmly against the opposite side. Throw the ball at a height equal to the shoulder and at the instant of releasing it from the hand, twist quickly outward, allowing the ball to twist off the ends of the first two fingers.



OUT-CURVE.

Secure the ball in the hand by pressing it firmly between the first two fingers and the thumb, with the third and little fingers closed in the palm of the hand. In delivering the ball to the batsman throw the arm forward midway between the shoulder and waist, and at the moment of releasing the ball, turn or twist the hand quickly to the left.



HIGH IN-CURVE.

Hold the ball between the first two fingers and the thumb. Throw the arm forward with the hand above the shoulder. Twist the hand downward smartly, letting the ball roll off the ends of the fingers as the grasp is released.

DISGUISED CHANGE OF PACE.

One of the most effective points of play in pitching is a well disguised change of pace in delivery. Nothing bothers a batsman more than to be prepared to strike quickly at a swiftly pitched ball only to find that his stroke has been too quick to meet the ball squarely on the face of the bat, owing to the lessened speed of its delivery. The same, too, when in anticipation of a slow or medium paced ball he hits right out from the shoulder, only to see the ball flash by his at bat the utmost speed of the pitcher. It requires a keen-sighted, nervy, and experienced batsman to be ready to meet a well disguised change of pace with any effect. Of course it will not do for the pitcher to openly make a change in the speed of the ball; as all its effectiveness lies in his deceiving the judgment of the batsman as to the pace of the ball. To make the preliminary movements of a swift delivery, and then to be able to suddenly lessen the strength of the throw, without any apparent change of motion in the act of throwing, is not a very easy task. It can be done, however, and has been, and with telling effect on the large majority of batsmen. It is an especially effective point when facing one of the class of heavy hitting batsmen, the regular "slugging" home run hitters, who, as a general rule know rather less about scientific batting than the youngsters of a school boy nine.

The pitcher should make a point of practicing this change of pace so as to thoroughly disguise the difference in the speed of the ball. If done well and so as to deceive the batsman's judgment as to the speed of the coming ball it will invariably yield a strike, called, or an easy chance to throw the runner from home base out.

An essential aid in making this change of pace is to have a perfect understanding with your catcher as to the code of signals which will indicate to him that you are about to deliver a swift or a slow ball. This code should be arranged beforehand, or otherwise. If you send in a slow ball after a swift one, or *vice versa*, your catcher will be likely to have a passed ball charged to him. Of course the signals must be disguised as well as the change of pace, or all the strategic effect will be lost. In changing from swift to slow in your pace, see that your slow ball is not such an one as would be likely to suit the batsman for a favorite hit, or, if it be so, be sure that you have your out-fielders prepared for the expected chance for a catch. There is no virtue in a slow ball itself, but only in the strategic skill accompanying its delivery. In the old days of Martin's pitching of slow balls, the effectiveness of his delivery was not in slow pace of the balls he sent in, but in his never sending in a ball to suit the batsman, it either being too far out or too close in, or too high or too low. When he did send in a slow, fair ball, it was when the batsman was found unprepared to meet it.

CATCHING BATSMEN OUT OF FORM.

A very effective point in pitching is to watch the movement of the batsman closely, while he is standing ready to strike, so as to catch him unprepared to hit a "straight" ball with any effect, or if so prepared, not ready to hit the ball he has called for, the "straight ball" referred to being a ball over the plate and at the height called for. This catching the batsman out of form invariably yields a called strike or an out. To play the point effectually there requires to be an understanding between the pitcher and the catcher, not only in order that the latter should be quick and prompt in his return of the ball to the pitcher, but that he should be on the alert for rapid delivery of the ball from the pitcher in return. All such quick returns of the ball by the pitcher should invariably be accompanied by balls over the base and at the height called for, or the play will lose its point. In playing this "out of form racket" on the batsman, it is essential to watch the batsman closely and to note when he becomes impatient in waiting for a specially desired ball, and temporarily takes a rest, as it were; then it is that he becomes open to this point of attack; for he is then "out of form" for making an effective hit. In sending in the ball when a batsman is thus caught out of form for good hitting, the pitcher must invariably send the ball in "over the base" and at the height called for, or his effort to catch the batsman napping will fail. It will be

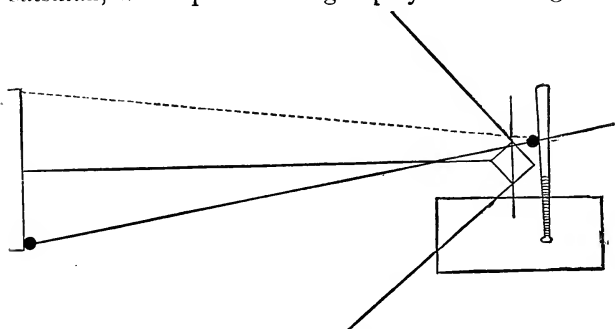
readily seen that marked command of the ball in delivery is very essential in playing this point. Of course the pitcher should watch the action of the batsman closely so as to be sure that he is not "playing possum" in pretending to be out of form when he is really wide awake to the attack, for this is a point for a skilful batsman to play on the pitcher.

PLACING FIELDERS FOR SPECIAL HITS.

Nearly every batsman has what he considers as his pet ball to hit at. In some cases it is a low ball, in others a high one; but whatever kind of ball it is, it is one which he has become accustomed to as a favorite ball to hit at, and it is a point for the pitcher to make to find out what it is, and when he does, to place his field to suit the special hit, and then to send in the pet ball for the batsman to hit at. The pitcher must first ascertain, however, that the pet ball is not one which yields a telling "grounders," but a ball which almost invariably goes from the bat high in the air to the outer field. The class of batsmen who are most frequently caught napping in this way are the hard-hitting or "slugging" class, who go in more for home runs than for scientific batting. In playing this point, too, the pitcher must be careful to have his out-field judiciously placed, and to have reliable judges of catches in position.

CHANGE OF PLACE IN DELIVERY.

When the pitcher finds himself facing a skilful batsman, well up in strategic play in handling the



ash, he will frequently find it advantageous to change the place of his delivery from the center of the "box" to the right or left of it. On a calculation of the swing of the bat meeting the ball at the home base, a center delivery would cause the ball to be returned almost direct to the pitcher. Supposing, however, the delivery is from the extreme right of the "box," and the ball should meet the same swing of the bat, the return of the ball would be to the extreme left of the box. This is shown in the appended diagram. The dotted line shows the direction of the ball from the bat.

Of course the position in which the batsman stands changes the line of return of the ball materially. But a point can be made from it by close study.

To get at the philosophy of this point the pitcher will find it necessary to study the theory of properly timing the hit in batting, which he will find illustrated by diagrams in the work on batting. It is surprising how much an intelligent pitcher will find to learn in studying up the philosophy of pitching and batting, that is if he desires to become a thorough expert, and not a mere "machine."

PITCHING FOR CATCHES.

It is frequently a good point for a pitcher to play to pitch for catches; that is, to send in good balls to the bat which will tempt the batsman to hit them high in the air, and then lay his whole field out for catches. Care, however, needs to be taken in playing this point, so as to be pretty certain that the pitching is faced by a poorer class of batsmen than ordinary. It won't do to try this dodge on first class batsmen, for it would be soon taken advantage of and at considerable cost of base hits and earned runs. The batsmen most likely to fall into a trap of this kind are those of the class of "sluggers" who go in for hard hitting and home runs at all costs. Those who wait for good balls and who are content with earning a single base by their hits, are not a safe class of batsmen to pitch to for catches. With the heavy hitting class, however, it is a pretty safe game to play, pro-

vided that the pitcher has a sufficiently extensive out field at command to admit of his men standing out far enough for the longest hit balls. In cases where the out field fence is too close to the diamond, and long hit balls are likely to go over the fence, pitching for catches will not pay.

CHANGE OF PITCHERS.

While the rules prohibit the substitution of a new player in the field for one already in the nine,—except in the case of a player in the nine being so disabled while playing in the field, as to be unable to discharge the duties of his position—they admit of the Captain of the nine making such disposition of his field force as he deems advisable as to the placing of his men. But they require that nine men must constitute the field force, and no less number can legally be played in the field, and, of course, no greater number. It therefore follows, that the Captain of the nine can change his pitcher—that is, substitute another one of his nine players as pitcher in the place of the regular pitcher,—at his option. It is customary, as a point to play, to have a “change pitcher” in the nine, so that, in case the regular pitcher becomes “rattled,” or is being badly “punished” by the batsman, a change of pitchers may be made with the view of keeping up the effectiveness of the attack. Of course as a point to be played, the change pitcher should be one who is different in his style of delivery, or in the

method of his peculiar tactics, for therein lies the advantage of the change. If a skillful strategist in the position should find himself temporarily overpowered by a strong assault from the batting force, a change of pitchers which would substitute a swift machine pitcher, frequently proves advantageous. While, on the other hand, if the latter style of pitcher is the "regular" man in the position, and he is being punished by the batsman, a change from the machine pitcher to the strategist comes into play with excellent effect. The point to be considered in changing pitchers, is, how to break up the feeling of confidence in hitting which the batting force benefits by when they are enabled to punish the pitching, and the change which will best do this is the change to be made. The reputation which a pitcher has in the fraternity, goes a great way in breaking up the confidence in hitting which batsmen suddenly attain in a match, for the batting force will frequently face a man comparatively unknown as a pitcher, with a degree of confidence which is not felt when they face a noted pitcher. And it sometimes happens, that an inferior pitcher will temporarily prove effective in the position in breaking up confidence in hitting, where a better pitcher will fail. All these points should be taken into consideration, not only when making a change of pitchers, but also, when placing a change pitcher in the nine to be used in case of need.

THROWING TO BASES.

A point of play, peculiar to old time pitchers, was that of throwing to bases to catch a base-runner napping off the base. Experience, however, has so plainly shown that throwing to bases should be exceptional and not general, that it has gone out of use to a considerable extent. Of course it will not do for a pitcher to neglect throwing to bases; but it should only be done when he is very proficient in it, and never except by signal from the catcher. Under the existing rule applicable to balking, throwing to base by the pitcher has to be done very carefully, indeed, as regards the movement in throwing, in order to avoid the penalty for balking. The pitcher, in fact, can only safely throw to a base, while standing in the box, before he has made any single one of the movements he is accustomed to make preliminary to his delivery of the ball to the bat. Accurate throwing to a base from the pitcher's position is difficult of attainment. As regards throwing to first base, that is the easiest base to throw to, and third base the most difficult. Taking the average result of throwing to bases, reliable data shows that it is five to one in favor of the base-runner. The rule is to watch the bases closely, and make a frequent show of throwing, but only let the ball go when a throw will be almost sure to tell. It was easier to throw to bases under the League rules of 1885 than under those of the American code, as a careful reading of the rule applicable to

a balk in the new codes, and of the rule governing the taking of a position in the "box" to deliver the ball, will fully show.

A CATCHER'S ASSISTANCE.

Pitchers should bear in mind the important fact that, no matter how skillful they may be in the delivery of the ball to the bat, they must be largely dependent for success upon the character of the assistance rendered them by their catcher. It is especially a matter of the first importance to a strategic pitcher that he should have a first-rate man behind the bat to second him in all his little points of play. For this reason is it that pitchers and catchers should always work together in pairs. They should be familiar with each other's peculiar methods of playing their respective positions. A first-rate catcher for one pitcher might be almost useless for another, as far as helping the pitcher in strategic play is concerned. Each should fully understand the other's signals in a match—the catcher those of the pitcher, so as to be able to be prepared for a sudden change of pace; and the pitcher those of the catcher, so as to know when the latter wants his partner to pitch for throwing to bases; for it is almost impossible for a catcher to do his best in throwing to bases unless the pitcher sends him in balls especially for that purpose. A pitcher must largely depend upon his catcher in playing the point of catching a batsman "out of form," for unless the catcher is quick in returning the ball to the

pitcher the chance to play the point is lost. Then, too, the catcher can materially aid the pitcher when the former happens to know the peculiar style of his batting opponent and the latter does not, by signaling to him what kind of ball to send in.

BASE RUNNER'S DODGES.

Of course the pitcher will not be allowed to monopolize all the dodges and tricks of the game in playing points upon his adversaries in the diamond field; and among the latter who will avail themselves of artifices to bother and confuse the pitcher in his work, are the base runners; and the pitcher, when antagonized by wily base runners, must learn to school himself to a condition of apparent indifference to the working of their little "racket." One of the most trying positions a pitcher has to encounter in a contest is that which occurs when a runner has secured third base before a single man of the batting side has been put out. This position of things is aggravated when, at the same time, there is another runner occupying first base and endeavoring to engage the pitcher's exclusive attention in order to enable his companion runner at third base to get home and score his run. This is a situation which tries the nerve of a pitcher, and he never displays his skill in pitching more prominently than when he manages to keep the runner on third until the side is put out, and his base running adversary at third base thereby gets left. In fact, this is a pretty good test of a

pitcher's talent as an able strategist. No mere machine pitcher can accomplish this feat; it requires a man well versed in "headwork" pitching to do it.

CONTROL OF TEMPER IN PITCHING.

There are certain games in which thorough control of temper is as necessary to success as special skill in any department of the game, and this is an important essential in base ball. And in no position in the diamond field is it more requisite than in that of the occupant of the pitcher's "box." The pitcher who cannot control his temper is as unfit for his position as is a quick-tempered billiard player to excel as a winner in professional contests. Quick temper is the mortal foe of cool judgment, and it plays the mischief with that nervy condition so necessary in the development of skillful strategy. The pitcher must of necessity be subject to annoyances well calculated to try a man's temper; especially when his best efforts in pitching are rendered useless by the blunders of incompetent fielders, or he finds himself at the mercy of a prejudiced umpire. But under such trying circumstances his triumph is all the greater if he can pluck victory out of the fire of such opposition.

PITCHING AGAINST THE UMPIRE.

The experience of pitchers has taught them that, as a general rule, Umpires are but fallible beings, and that their errors of judgment frequently militate

greatly against the success of a pitcher who avails himself of his skill as a strategist in the position. It frequently, therefore, becomes a point to play on the part of a pitcher to "pitch for the Umpire" in a match as well as against the batsman; and by this nothing is meant in the way of making that important official the pitcher's adversary, but, on the contrary, to work on him in such a manner as to gain his good will to the extent of inducing him to decide in favor of the pitcher rather than the batsman when there is a doubt in the matter of rendering a decision.

For instance, when the pitcher sees that the Umpire is more concerned about avoiding being hit by the ball, rather than about the accuracy of his rulings in calling "balls" and "strikes," he should avoid, as much as possible, sending in balls which are neither directly over the base nor yet so clearly not over as to leave a doubt as to the line of their delivery; because under such circumstances all such doubtful balls are apt to be more frequently called against the pitcher than in his favor. Nervy and plucky Umpires who can coolly use their keenest judgment when facing the hot fire of a swift delivery, are sadly in the minority; and when a pitcher finds himself in the hands of an official who is apt to be disconcerted at times, he must suit his pitching to the exigencies of the case, and, to a certain extent, pitch for the Umpire, and not so as to annoy or intimidate him. Moreover, it is the height of folly on the part of a pitcher to work against the Umpire by repeated appeals for

judgment on strikes, as it is simply a tacit questioning either of his judgment or his impartiality. The pitcher should, by word as well as action, give the Umpire to understand that he has implicit faith in his impartiality, and relies fully on the soundness of his judgment, and if he can make just such a favorable impression on the Umpire as this apparent faith in his ability leads to, the calling of balls will not be as frequent as called strikes. A pitcher who, by word or action, incurs the prejudice of an Umpire in a match, is simply working against his own interests. To play points against the Umpire is simply to outwit his judgment, and to avoid giving him any cause for irritation or ill will.

BALKING.

The new rules governing balks are so worded as to render it difficult for a pitcher to escape making a balk in throwing to bases, unless he makes his throw to the base before preparing to deliver the ball. A pitcher makes a balk under the new rules if he makes any *one* motion of the series he is accustomed to make in delivering the ball to the bat. For instance, if he stands with his left leg bent at the knee ready for the preliminary step, and then moves to throw to a base he necessarily commits a balk, as he makes one of the motions of his feet the same as in delivering the ball to the bat. Therefore, in order to throw to a base he must stand with both feet on the ground, just the same as he does when throwing to a base

after fielding a ball from the bat. The most effective way of throwing to bases is to stand up straight and ready to throw to first base while looking at the catcher and awaiting the latter's signal.



The preceding cut illustrates this preparatory position.

THE MOTIONS IN DELIVERING.

The fewer motions a pitcher has in delivery the less time the batsman has for judging the character of the ball; besides which the base runner from first base to second is afforded less opportunity for successfully running his base when the pitcher has but few preliminary motions in pitching to the bat. Under the rule of 1886, with the forward step allowed, he can make almost any number he chooses; and as each motion counts as one of the preliminary movements referred to by the rule, it follows that the greater the number of motions the better the chances are for successful base running.

Some pitchers have twice the number of motions in delivery when there are no runners on the bases to the number they have when one or more of the bases is occupied. The best plan, however, is to accustom yourself to a regular method of delivery involving the fewest motions possible. As a general rule a number of preliminary motions in delivery, especially those of an eccentric character—like the jumping business of Mr. Jones, formerly of the Yale nine—fail to trouble any but a very poor batsman. In fact they only serve to make him more on the alert in watching the ball than he otherwise would be.

STRATEGY IN PITCHING.

“What is strategy in base ball pitching?” is a pertinent question. The reply is, that it is a resort to legitimate artifice to deceive the judgment of the bats-

man. The primary elements of successful strategic play in pitching may be summed up in brief as follows: First, to deceive the eye of the batsman in regard to the character of the delivery of the ball, as to its being fast or slow. Second, to deceive his judgment in reference to the direction of the ball when pitched to him, as to its being high or low, or where he wants it. Third, to watch the batsman closely so as to know just when he is temporarily "out of form" for making a good hit; and Fourth, to tempt him with a ball which will be likely to go high from his bat to the outfield and be caught.

The moment a strategic pitcher faces a batting opponent he begins to study up the peculiar style of handling his bat, with a view to discovering his weak points in batting. He observes how he holds his bat to begin with, and if he finds that it is not held so as to be well poised over his shoulder, ready for an effective forward swing to meet the ball, he counts it a point in his favor. The same, too, if the batsman holds his bat out in front of him, drawing it back as he prepares to meet the ball. Then the pitcher watches the character of the batsman's stroke, so as to note whether he swings his bat forward with a sharp, quick wrist stroke, or in the "slugging" style of hitting at the ball from the shoulder. The former style of stroke is likely to be effective against a swiftly pitched ball, while the latter generally fails unless designed to meet a comparatively slow ball. Another strong point in strategic pitching is catch-

ing a batsman "out of form." In fact, the pitcher should deliver the ball at the very outset with the view of getting his man out of form, and this he can generally do by sending in what may be termed "aggravating balls," that is, balls near enough within reach to make the batsmen want to hit at them, and yet too far away for effective hitting. A ball close in, followed by a wild pitched ball, keeps the batsman's nerves in tension; and this, with his constant expectancy of a good ball, and his disappointment at not getting one, causes him to become impatient, and then he temporarily gets out of his position of readiness to hit, and just then is the pitcher's opportunity for a quickly delivered ball over the base and at the height called for, and if this is "done well when it is done" a called strike, or a poorly hit ball, is almost an invariable result. The catcher's assistance is needed in playing this point, for unless the catcher returns the ball to the pitcher quickly and accurately, the latter cannot avail himself of the chance to catch the batsman napping. The pitcher should consider the batsman as one open to a successful attack whenever the latter relaxes his sharp watching of the delivery of the ball, or fails to be in perfect readiness to meet it.

Another very effective point in strategic pitching is a thoroughly disguised change of pace in delivery. This is difficult of attainment, and as a general rule it can only be played with effect on the careless class of batsmen. It is absolutely requisite that the dis-

guise of the delivery should be complete, or otherwise the batsman will have time to prepare himself for the change of pace. The change from a very swiftly pitched ball to a medium pace or slow ball should largely depend upon the condition of preparation the batsman is in to meet the ball. If he is seen to be ready to make a quick wrist play stroke, then a swift ball over the plate would not be timely. Or if he is a "slugger" and is ready to hit from the shoulder, a slow ball would be just what would suit him. It is extremely bothering to the general class of batsmen to have a swiftly pitched ball flash by him when he is looking for a comparatively slow ball; and, *vice versa*, a slow ball proves troublesome when the actions of the pitcher lead the batsman to expect a fast ball.

It is a point of strategic play in pitching to avoid sending in a ball which is over the base and at the height called for, as long as it can safely be done. When the Umpire indicates the height of the ball required, the pitcher should send it in at once at the height required, but *not* over "the plate." When he does send it over the plate it should not be at the height called for. The point is, to keep the ball close to the limits but not within the legal range, except when it becomes too costly not to do so, and that is when four or five balls have been called. If a batsman takes his stand in a leisurely kind of manner, as if he was going to get ready to hit just when it suited him and no sooner, it is safe to send the ball in

right over the plate at the outset, and very near the height indicated. But if the batsman is one who gets right into form for hitting the moment he takes his stand, it is better to keep the ball wide of the straight mark, even to the extent of having three or four balls called, as then there is a chance of tiring him out so as to break up his good form for hitting. It is the part of a skillful strategist in pitching, never to let his batting opponent see that he is "rattled" by "punishment," and this term "punishment," by the way, does not mean base hits made from his pitching without regard to the runs they may yield being earned or not, but only base hits scored before three distinct chances for outs off the pitching have been afforded the fielders and have not been accepted. A pitcher is only "punished" in the technical application of the term, when runs are really *earned* off his pitching. Suppose the pitcher sends in a ball which the batsman hits in the air and which affords an easy chance for a catch, but through bad play the chance is not accepted. And suppose that the next batsman taking his stand has three strikes called on him, and on the third strike the catcher fails both to catch the ball, or to throw the runner out at first base. And then suppose that the third batsman hits a short ball toward third base, and the ball is thrown too low or too high for the first baseman to hold it in time, and the third chance for an out is lost, and then base hit after base hit be made. Such hits cannot justly be charged as punish-

ing the pitcher, as, but for poor fielding, the side would have been out without a run having been made or a single base hit scored. Where failures of this kind occur, they should not be allowed to disconcert the pitcher, nor cause him to be "rattled," as they do not in the least militate against the effective character of his work. But when base hits are made and runs are scored before three plain chances have been afforded the fielders for outs, then it is proper to charge the pitcher with punishment. Even then it is his point to play to control his chagrin at the untoward result, and to endeavor to make up for the punishment by improved play in his position. This however, can only be done through thorough control of temper, aided by plucky, nervy, up-hill work in recovering the lost ground.

The rule of success in strategic pitching is never to send in a ball to suit the batsman unless you are obliged by the circumstances of the case to do so. The strategist learns how to pretend to do this without actually doing it, and therein lies his art as a strategist.

BATTERY WORK.

The pitcher and catcher in base ball are technically called the "battery," and this team of two players are the main reliance of the attacking force in a contest. An effective pitcher is a tower of strength in himself, and a good catcher is almost equally as valuable, but unless they work together as a "team" they

divide their strength and weaken their power in proportion. Pitchers and catchers should always work together in pairs. They should be familiar with each other's peculiar methods of playing their respective positions. A suitable catcher for one pitcher, might be comparatively useless for another as far as helping the pitcher in strategic play is concerned. Each should fully understand the other's signals in a match—the catcher those of the pitcher, so as to be able to be prepared for a sudden change of pace, and the pitcher those of the catcher, so as to know when the latter wants his partner to pitch for throwing to bases; for the pitcher should know that it is impossible for a catcher to do his best in throwing to bases, unless the pitcher sends him in balls especially for that purpose.

An essential point in the formation of an effective "battery," is to pair the two men well together. Two mere "machine" players in the positions—that is, pitchers or catchers who never use "headwork" in their play—will never work well together, nor will two strategists together fully develop the full strength of a "battery," as the former pair will only do mere mechanical work, and the latter are too likely to conflict in particular ideas as to which are the most effective points to play.

PITCHING BY SIGNALS.

The pitcher and catcher should have a code of signals between them, and they should practice these

signs until they can read them as easily as their letters. Thus, when the catcher sees an opportunity for the pitcher to catch a base player napping off his base, a certain signal should be given by which the pitcher may understand that he is to throw to the base promptly. Again, if the pitcher is familiar with a certain habit of the batsman before him of hitting at a favorite ball, he should give the catcher a sign informing him that he is going to send in a slower or swifter ball or a higher or lower one than ordinarily is pitched.

Suppose, for instance, that the striker, who has either been put out, or has made his base, was one to whom swift balls had been sent, and that his successor is one whom slow balls bother, the pitcher gives a sign to the catcher—one, of course, that cannot be observed by his opponents—to come up closer to the bat, thereby informing the catcher that he is going to drop his pace in delivery; the batsman, not being aware of the proposed change, prepares himself to meet the same class of balls which were pitched to the batsman preceding him, and the result is, that the change of pace leads him to strike too quick at the ball. Of course, if this change had been indicated to the batsman by the call of the pitcher to the catcher to stand up close behind for the change of pace, the batsman would have been placed upon his guard, and thereby would be prepared for the change; but this exposure of the design of the pitcher is prevented by the private signal, and the judicious

manner in which the change is carried out. Just so, too, is it when a change from slow to swift delivery is made, a private signal intimating to the catcher to get back for swift balls. The catcher, too, should have a similar understanding with the out-fielders who should watch him closely when a new batsman takes his stand at the home base—so that when any change of delivery by the pitcher is made, the catcher by a certain signal can either send the out-fielders further out or closer in, according as the chances of a long high ball or a short one from the batsman are most probable. This strategical style of play is a great aid to success in all cases, but especially against inexperienced players, who do not perceive the “nice little game” that is being played upon them.

THE PITCHERS' AVERAGES.

The only criterion of effective pitching is the record of earned runs scored off the pitching. It should be remembered, in this connection, that there is quite a difference between runs earned off the pitching and runs earned off the fielding. If the first, second, and third strikers at the bat each make a base hit, and the fourth striker hits the ball so as to oblige the fielder to throw him out at first base, one run being scored off the hitting alone, then one run is clean earned off the pitching. But if the first striker makes a single base hit, steals to second, is given his third on another base hit, and goes home by a steal in on a throw to second to cut off the runner from first, then

a run is earned off the fielding, inasmuch as from the base hits made alone two men would have been on bases, and no run scored. It is necessary, therefore, for a correct record of earned runs off the pitching, that scorers should see to it that a proper distinction should be made between runs distinctly earned off the pitching and those earned off the fielding. Of course, direct fielding errors are not to be included in runs earned off the fielding, but only runs earned by effective base-running, as no runs can be earned at all from fielding errors.



SWIFT DROP BALL.

With the ball held well in the palm of the hand in the same manner as for the out-shoot or rising ball, this delivery is executed by allowing the fingers to turn under the ball as it is released from the hand, letting it roll off the ends of the fingers. The movement of the arm whether above or below the shoulder, should be as nearly as possible perpendicular.

THE PITCHING OF 1885.

The pitching of 1885, under the rules which prevailed after the early months of the season, was such as to make successful batting more of chance hitting than ever before; the pitchers—the fast over-hand throwers from the “box”—literally having things their own way, one result being the fact that the monotonous and uninteresting “pitcher’s games” prevailed to a greater extent than previously known in the history of the game, as the season’s records show; there being no less than twenty-eight games occurring during 1885, in which the batting side was retired in nine successive innings without a single base hit being credited to them. This “pretty state of things” is likely to continue just so long as the pitcher is allowed to deliver twice as many unfair balls to the bat as the batsman is permitted to allow fair balls to pass him without striking at them. In other words the pitcher, under the existing rules, is allowed just double the advantage in attacking work from the “box,” that the batsman has in defense from the home base.

PITCHING AVERAGES.

The following are the best League fielding averages of 1885, of players who took part in twenty

championship games and over during the season. The averages are those of "games," the percentage figures are those of "times to bat."

PITCHERS.	CLUBS.	Games.	Average of Earned runs.	Per cent. of Base Hits.
Welch	New York.....	55	0-92	.199
Keefe	New York.....	45	1-04	.197
Daily	Philadelphia	49	1-33	.218
Shaw.....	Providence	47	1-36	.215
Clarkson	Chicago	69	1-46	.208
Radbourn	Providence	49	1-53	.239
Ferguson	Philadelphia.....	45	1-80	.215
Buffinton	Boston	50	1-92	.254
Boyle	St. Louis	39	1-97	.221
Getzein... ..	Detroit	37	2-02	.263
Whitney.....	Boston.....	50	2-56	.271
Galvin.....	Buffalo	32	2-96	.291

McCormick of Chicago played in but 28 games, including those of the Providence club, but the average of earned runs off his pitching was but 1-57. Corcoran pitched in only ten games in both Chicago and New York, with an earned run average of 1-30. Baldwin, of Detroit, pitched in 19 games for an average of earned runs of only 1-05.

The following are the best pitching averages of the Eastern League season, as well as can be made out from the inaccurate record kept. Those only who pitched in twenty games and over are given below.

EASTERN LEAGUE.

PITCHERS.	CLUBS.	Games.	Average of Earned runs.	Per cent. of Base Hits.
Smith, F.....	Newark	20	0-80	.144
Barr	National	24	0-91	.163
Mattinson	Jersey City	36	1-02	.194
Pyle	Virginia	54	1-21	.214
Kimber	Virginia	39	1-25	.223
Tiernan	Trenton	40	1-51	.231
Heckman	Newark	24	1-70	.204
Henny	Norfolk	28	1-71	.233
Gagur	National	23	1-82	.227
Wetzel.....	Lancaster.....	29	1-89	.256

All the others who played in over 30 games averaged over two earned runs off their pitching to each game.

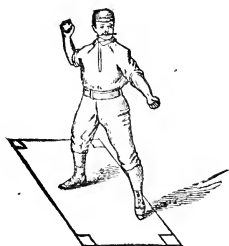
The following are the averages of the pitchers of the American Association who pitched in thirty games and over of the championship series.

PITCHERS.	CLUBS.	Games.	Average of Earned Runs.	Per cent. of Base Hits.
Caruthers.....	St. Louis	53	.0416	.238
Morris	Pittsburg	63	.0435	.211
Hecker	Louisville	54	.0528	.224
Matthews.....	Athletic	46	.0545	.235
Porter.....	Brooklyn	54	.0554	.234
Fauts	St. Louis.....	46	.0573	.236
Harkins	Brooklyn	34	.0586	.255
White	Cincinnati	35	.0600	.252
McKean.....	"	32	.0601	.244
Henderson.....	Baltimore	61	.0603	.258
Lynde.....	Metropolitan	43	.0703	.269
Cushman	"	33	.0731	.238

SOUTHERN LEAGUE.

The following are the pitching averages of players who took part in thirty championship games and over in the Southern League in 1885. The figures are the per cent. of earned runs to "time at bat" earned off the pitching, as also the per cent. of base hits off the pitching, with the average of struck out per game.

PITCHERS.	CLUBS.	Games.	Per cent. of Earned runs.	Per cent. of Base Hits.
Voss	Nashville.....	43	.270	.189
Hoffard.....	Augusta	51	.286	.168
Kilray	Augusta	50	.289	.183
Clark	Columbus	42	.307	.197
Ramsey	Chattanooga	41	.329	.165
Veach.....	Macon	31	.332	.178
Hart	Chattanooga	39	.390	.223
Bauer	Atlanta	31	.371	.201
Dundon	Atlanta.....	36	.409	.202
Masran	Memphis	31	.411	.212



TECHNICAL TERMS IN PITCHING.

Our national game now has its regular technical phraseology, and below we give a dictionary of the terms used in the game.

ASSISTANCE ON STRIKES IN PITCHING.—The pitcher is credited with an assistance on strikes whenever the batsman strikes out, the record going to the summary.

A BALK.—A balk is made when the pitcher either steps outside the lines of his position when making any of the preliminary movements in delivering the ball to the bat, or fails to deliver it after making one or other of such movements.

A BOWLED BALL.—If a ball be bowled along the ground to the bat, the umpire is required to call a ball.

Box.—The “box” is the technical term used to indicate the pitcher’s position.

BATTERY.—This term is applied to the pitcher and catcher as a team working together as a pair.

BATTERY ERRORS.—These are errors of the pitcher and catcher, such as wild pitches; called balls pitched balls hitting the batsman, and passed balls on which bases are run.

BLOCK.—A block ball is a ball stopped by outfielders in a match when hit from the bat, or thrown to a base after being hit.

CHANGE OF PACE.—This point of play—viz changing the pace of the delivery from swift to medium—is very effective when the change is thoroughly disguised, but not otherwise.

CALLED BALLS.—A called ball is the penalty inflicted on the pitcher for sending a ball to the batsman either not over the home base or not at the height indicated by the batsman.

CHANCES.—A “chance” in base ball means an opportunity afforded off the pitching for the fielders to put a player out. A pitcher is never “punished” so long as his pitching affords chances for three outs before a run is scored, no matter how many runs the opposing side may score after the three chances have been given.

CURVE.—This refers to the horizontal curving of the ball on its way to the bat.

DROPPING THE PACE.—This term is applied when the pitcher lessens the speed of his delivery, and substitutes a medium-paced ball for a swift one. It is very effective in some cases.

DROP BALL.—A ball which, on the line of its delivery to the bat, drops downward as it approaches the home base.

DEAD BALL is a ball delivered to the bat by the pitcher, that touches the batsman's bat, without being struck at, or any part of the batsman's person while standing in his position, without being struck at, or any part of the umpire's person, without first passing the catcher.

FAIR BALL is a ball delivered by the pitcher while wholly within the lines of his position, and while facing the batsman. The ball, so delivered, to pass over any part of the home base, and at the height called for by the batsman.

HEADWORK.—This term is applied to a pitcher who uses his judgment in his work, and brings mental power into play to aid his physical ability.

HIGH BALL is a ball legally delivered by the pitcher over the home base, higher than the belt of the batsman, but not higher than his shoulder.

IN CURVE.—A ball which, in the line of its delivery to the bat, curves in toward the batsman's position.

JERK.—An old form of delivery of the ball to the bat which was at one time prohibited. It is made by touching one side of the body with the elbow as the ball is swung forward on delivery.

LOW BALL is a ball legally delivered by the pitcher,

over the home base, not higher than the batsman's belt, nor lower than his knee.

OUT OF FORM.—When a pitcher sees a batsman standing carelessly at the bat and unprepared for the ball, a quick delivery will catch him “out of form,” and get a strike called or a poor hit from his failure to be ready to strike properly.

OUT CURVE.—A ball which curves out from the batsman's position as it passes the home base.

PITCHER'S POINTS.—These are the four iron quoits laid down on the four corners of the pitcher's position.

PUNISHING THE PITCHER.—The pitcher is “punished” when the balls he pitches to the bat are easily hit to the field in such a manner as to prevent them from being fielded in time to put either the batsman or base-runners out. No pitcher is “punished” simply because runs are easily scored by his opponent through errors, but only when bases are earned by clean hits off his pitching before three chances for out are offered off the pitching.

PACE.—This is the technical term applied to the degree of speed with which the ball is pitched to the bat. There are three degrees of pace, viz., Swift, medium and slow.

RISING BALL.—A ball which rises on the line of its delivery to the bat.

UNFAIR BALL is a ball delivered by the pitche

that does not pass over any part of the home base, or does not pass over the home base at the height called for by the batsman

WIDE PITCH.—This term is applied to a ball which is pitched over the catcher's head out of his reach, or so wide of his position, on one side or the other, as to be just as much out of reach as in the first instance.

THE NEW PITCHING RULES.

The rules for 1886 applicable to the pitcher's position are as follows:

RULE 5. *The Pitcher's Lines* must be straight lines forming the boundaries of a space of ground, in the infield, seven feet long by four feet wide, distant fifty feet from the center of the Home Base, and so placed that the six feet lines would each be two feet distant from and parallel with a straight line passing through the center of the Home and Second Bases. Each corner of this space must be marked by a flat iron plate or stone, six inches square, fixed in the ground, even with the surface.

DEFINITIONS.

RULE 24. *A High Ball* is a ball legally delivered by the Pitcher, over the Home Base, higher than the belt of the Batsman, but not higher than his shoulder.

RULE 25. *A Low Ball* is a ball legally delivered

by the Pitcher, over the Home Base, not higher than the Batsman's belt, nor lower than his knee.

RULE 26. *A High or Low Ball* is a ball legally delivered by the Pitcher, over the Home Base, not higher than the Batsman's shoulder, nor lower than his knee.

RULE 27. *A Fair Ball* is a ball delivered by the Pitcher while standing wholly within the lines of his position, and facing the batsman, the ball, so delivered, to pass over the home base, and at the height called for by the batsman.

RULE 28. *An Unfair Ball* is a ball delivered by the Pitcher as in Rule 27, except that the ball does not pass over the Home Base, or does not pass over the Home Base at the height called for by the Batsman.

RULE 29. *A Balk* is

(1) If the Pitcher, when about to deliver the ball to the bat, while standing within the lines of his position, make any one of the series of motions he habitually makes in so delivering the ball to the bat, without delivering it.

(2) If the ball be held by the Pitcher so long as to delay the game unnecessarily; or

(3) If delivered to the bat by the Pitcher when any part of his person is upon ground outside the lines of his position.

RULE 30. *A Dead Ball* is a ball delivered to the

bat by the Pitcher, that touches the Batsman's bat, without being struck at, or any part of the Batsman's person while standing in his position, without being struck at, or any part of the Umpire's person, without first passing the Catcher.

RULE 31. *A Block* is a batted or thrown ball that is stopped or handled by any person not engaged in the game.

RULE 32. *A Fair Hit* is a ball batted by the Batsman, standing in his position, that first touches the ground, the First Base, the Third Base, the part of the person of a player, or any other object that is in front of or on either of the Foul Lines, or (*exception*) batted directly to the ground by the Batsman, standing in his position, that (whether it first touches Foul or Fair Ground) bounds or rolls within the Foul Lines, between Home and First, or Home and Third Bases, without first touching the person of a player.

RULE 33. *A Foul Hit* is a ball batted by the Batsman, standing in his position, that first touches the ground, the part of the person of a player, or any other object that is behind either of the Foul Lines, or that strikes the person of such Batsman, while standing in his position, or (*exception*) batted directly to the ground by the Batsman, standing in his position, that (whether it first touches Foul or Fair Ground) bounds or rolls outside the Foul Lines, between Home and First, or Home and Third Bases, without first touching the person of a player.

RULE 34. When a batted ball passes outside the grounds, the Umpire shall decide it fair should it disappear within, or foul should it disappear outside of the range of the Foul Lines, and Rules 32 and 33 are to be construed accordingly.

RULE 35. *A Strike* is

(1) A ball struck at by the Batsman without its touching his bat; or

(2) A ball legally delivered by the Pitcher at the height called for by the Batsman, and over the Home Base, but not struck at by the Batsman.

RULE 36. *A Foul Strike* is a ball batted by the Batsman when any part of his person is upon ground outside the lines of the Batsman's position.

RULE 59. *In case of a Foul Strike, Foul Hit not legally caught flying, Dead Ball, or Base Runner put out for being struck by a fair-hit ball*, the ball shall not be considered in play until it is held by the Pitcher standing in his position.

RULE 62. *If the Pitcher causes the ball to strike the Batsman*, and the Umpire be satisfied that he does it intentionally, he shall fine the Pitcher therefor in a sum not less than Ten Dollars, nor more than Fifty Dollars. (See League Contract, paragraph 11.)



A LOW CATCH.

THE ART OF FIELDING.

Skillful fielding is by all odds the most attractive feature of the national game. It is something all can appreciate and understand. While scientific batting is only appreciable by those who fully understand the difficulties attendant upon it, fine play in the field can be enjoyed by every spectator, its beauties being as plainly apparent as is the characteristic blundering in the field of a mere novice in the art. In batting, however, while the great majority fully enjoy the dashing, splurgy, long-hit ball which yields a home run, it is only the minority who have sufficient knowledge of the "points" in the game to appreciate the scientific work of "facing for position," "timing the swing of the bat," "observing good form," and other like points in team-work at the bat. But in fielding, every one in the general crowd of spectators knows when a fine "pick-up" of a hot grounder is made; or when a hot "liner" is handsomely caught on the fly; or a short high ball is held after a long run in for it from the outer field; or when an apparently safe hit to right field is changed into an out at first base by the active fielding and quick accurate throwing in of the ball to the first baseman by the

right-fielder. Then, too, the brilliant catching of the swift curved line balls from the pitcher by the catcher, and the splendid throwing of the latter to the bases; all these features of sharp and skillful fielding are evidences of good work which the veriest novice in the crowd can understand and appreciate. Hence it is that fielding is at once the most brilliant and attractive feature of base-ball.

There is no department of the game, however, which requires more attention in the way of training to excel in it, than fielding does. A good fielder must be lithe of limb and with every muscle trained for active work in jumping, running, stooping, throwing, and, in fact, in every muscular movement which good practice in a gymnasium develops to advantage. In other words, a first-class fielder in base-ball must be a well-trained athlete. In no other field game of ball is fielding skill so essential to success as in the game of base-ball. In cricket a player may be valuable both as a bowler and batsman, and yet be but an indifferent fielder. In lacrosse, if the player is a swift sprint-runner his ability in other departments is regarded as of secondary importance; while, in football, daring pluck and wrestling powers are the most important elements in giving him the supremacy in the game. But in base ball, if the player fails to excel as a fielder his value as a member of the team depreciates fifty per cent. In fact, in no position in the game can a base ball player excel to an extent sufficient to make him useful unless he is fully

up to the required mark in fielding skill. Then, too, it should be borne in mind that it is fielding that is the chief element of success in winning games. Given a first rate "battery" in a team, and half its value is lost unless it be backed up by first-class fielding support. And the team may be noted for having two-thirds of the nine remarkably effective in handling the ash, and yet if they are below the mark in fielding skill, nearly all the advantage they derive from their good batting will be lost. In every season's campaign in the professional championship arena, has the winning team taken the lead in fielding. This was especially noticeable in the League and American campaigns of 1884, the Providence and Metropolitan teams leading in the club fielding averages; while at the bat the Chicago team—fifth in the pennant race—led at the bat in the League campaign, and the Athletics—sixth in the championship contest—took the lead at the bat in the American. We have all along contended that it is fielding that wins matches in the long run, and a correct analysis of each season's play fully proves the fact.

FIELDING VS. BATTING.

To sum up our case of fielding vs. batting, we have to say that skill in fielding always has been and always will be the most attractive feature of base ball. One reason for this lies in the fact that to excel in fielding one must train for it; you cannot become an expert fielder except by practice. Besides this,

there are certain qualities a man must possess before he can go into field-training with any hope of attaining proficiency—he must be able to throw well, as regards both distance and accuracy; he requires pluck to face hard-hit balls; the judgment to know what to do with them when he fields them; the quickness of perception and the nerve to act promptly in critical emergencies; and the endurance to stand the fatigue of the work in the most important of the several field positions. Now, in batting, the veriest novice can with straight pitching hit a long ball to the outfield; all that is required is plenty of muscle and a keen eye. Of course, practice will make him hit with more accuracy, but nevertheless he can hit the ball without practice; but no novice can go into the field and handle the ball properly. Here practice is needed before any degree of proficiency is reached, no matter how physically capable a man may be to excel in the field. As between batting and fielding, too, in which both the batsman and the fielder are practiced experts, there is far more attraction to the looker-on in seeing a fielder pick up a “hot grounder” handsomely, throw it accurately to the baseman, and to see it well held by the latter in time to put the base-runner out, than is possible from the mere act of hitting the ball to the field. The only attractive feature of batting, in reality, is when the batsman is faced by a strategic pitcher, and the former outwits the latter, and secures an unquestioned base-hit, despite the best of pitching and the sharpest of fielding.

But as this is rather exceptional work in batting, while sharp fielding is the general rule in the field, the fielding naturally presents the most attractions to those of the spectators who are capable of judging of the true merits of the game.

Fielding has made rapid strides toward perfection within the past decade, and especially within a year or two. There is more system about it than there used to be. Last year, for instance, saw more of that special element of success in fielding—good “backing-up”—exhibited, than ever before. There was more “playing for the side” in the fielding of 1885 than in any previous season’s work; and this important matter, too, is far more frequently seen in fielding than in batting. In batting, the rule is to play for one’s individual record, because playing for the side is more self-sacrificing in batting than in fielding. In fielding, you really help your record more by playing for the side than for a special record; hence, “playing for the side” is necessarily more practiced in handling the ball than in wielding the bat.

CHANGING POSITIONS IN FIELDING.

One of the greatest mistakes a player can make is to leave a position he has learned to excel in, in order to attempt to excel in another. It requires years of practice in base-play to become familiar with all the points of any one of the three positions—all three having their peculiar characteristics, differing materially from each other—and for a man who for years

has been playing in one position, and who, in that position, has got everything down to a spot, to go to another one and attempt to equal his play in the one he has left, is something one player out of a hundred cannot do. Certain men take to certain positions in the game of base ball naturally, as Creighton took to pitching; and some take to base-play more readily than to outfielding or catching or pitching, and when a man has found his place he is unwise to leave it to seek new laurels in another position.

There are three special departments of a base ball team, viz.: The "battery" players—the pitcher and catcher; the infielders, viz., the three basemen and the short-stop; and the outfielders, viz., the left, center and right fielders; and in commenting on the essentials of success required in each, and also on the points of play peculiar to each individual position, we shall begin with the "battery" players; and in referring to these players we shall only comment on that part of their duties directly connected with their fielding skill in their respective positions, those of the pitcher consisting of his ability to field and catch balls from the bat, and to throw them accurately to the bases; while those of the catcher are comprised in the success of his efforts, not only to do the same thing, but also in catching and stopping balls sent in to the bat by the pitcher.

BATTERY FIELDING.

THE PITCHER AS A FIELDER.

The first requisite of a pitcher, as regards his ability to excel in fielding in his position, is the possession of courage and pluck in facing hard hit balls from the bat which come direct to him. No pitcher can fully avail himself of his good judgment in strategic skill in pitching who has any fear in facing "hot" balls from the bat. At the same time he may possess the requisite courage to meet such hard hit balls and yet not be amenable to the charge of being afraid to face a hot fire of such balls, because he deems it wise at times to dodge some exceptionally hot liner, or other. What we refer to is, the courage which does not allow him to flinch from an endeavor to stop or catch the ordinary class of hard hit balls. The assistance a pitcher is credited with when the batsman strikes out has nothing to do with his regular fielding assistance; nor are the errors charged to him on "called" or wild pitched balls, anything to do with his direct fielding errors, the latter including only dropped fly balls, muffed or fumbled balls from the bat, and wide throws to basemen. The fielding points a pitcher is called upon to attend to includes his running to first base to hold the ball when the first baseman deems it necessary to field the ball himself and to throw it to the pitcher on the base. Also in the case of a "foul strike," a "foul" hit ball not caught on the fly a "dead" ball, or a base runner

put out for allowing a fair hit ball to strike him, and also in the case of a "block" ball, the pitcher must hold the ball while *standing within the lines of his position*, before the ball is regarded as in play; and therefore in all such cases he must, after fielding the ball, or after it has been thrown in to him, run to his position and stand within it ball in hand, before attempting to put an opponent out. Under the American code of rules the pitcher must avoid sending the ball in so close to the line of the batsman's position as to run the risk of hitting him, as his doing so leads to the batsman's taking his base on such ball striking his person whether it hits him solidly or not, provided the batsman makes due effort to avoid being hit without being obliged to leave his position. In the League code such hitting of the batsman by a ball sent in by the pitcher to the bat must be an *intentional* hit or no penalty can be inflicted. But such a hit is regarded as intentional if it could readily have been avoided by the pitcher. The pitcher, in both cases, must therefore see to it that in pitching wide of the base, either as a point of play or from inaccuracy of delivery, that he takes care to avoid pitching the ball over the line of the batsman's position, for this he has no right to do, and if done, and the batsman be hit in consequence, the Umpire must regard it as an intentional act. In running in to take high fly balls, whether balls which are likely to fall in front of the foul lines or directly behind them to the right or left of the catcher, the pitcher should be

sure of catching such balls or he should give way to the catcher or the nearest in fielder. Moreover, he should very seldom back far from his position toward second base in trying to catch a high fly ball as the chance of his making such a catch in comparison with that of some other one of the infielders is not good. Another point to play by the pitcher in fielding is always to bear in mind the existing situation of affairs in the in-field every time he pitches a ball, so as to be as prompt as possible in fielding the batted ball—whether picked up off the ground, taken on the bound, or caught on the fly—so as to throw it at once to the right position. Suppose, for instance, a runner is on second and but one man out, and the batsman sends the pitcher a hot bouncer, and the latter turns round to catch the runner from second napping, the point to play in this instance is, to drive back the runner—not forced off—to second by feints of throwing there, and yet be in time to throw the striking runner out. Should there be runners on first as well as second base when such a ball is hit, however, the pitcher then should not hesitate a moment, but promptly throw the ball to the third baseman so as to insure the “force off.” The correct thing in doing this is to be ready to do it the moment the ball is hit. Such readiness is the result of being fully aware beforehand as to what the exact situation is; if you are not fully aware of the position when the hit is made, the chances are that when you turn to look where to throw to, you will hesitate in your choice until too

late to throw either one runner or the other out. The excellence of the point of play lies solely in the readiness of the pitcher to comprehend the exact situation of things when the hit is made.

Though it is the duty of the short-stop to act as a sort of tender to the pitcher, the latter should never depend entirely upon such assistance, but attend to the ball himself when there is any possible chance of hastening a play by it. It is far too rare a thing to see a pitcher doing double duty, as it were, by his quick movements in fielding infield balls himself which are not generally regarded as balls to be fielded by the pitcher. It is "pretty work" in a pitcher when he is unusually active in backing up the first and third base positions when ground balls are hit near either of the boundaries of those bases. And it is quite the reverse to see a pitcher stand within the lines of his position almost indifferent in his efforts to field balls which do not come direct to him. It is this which shows the difference—as far as fielding can show it—between the pitcher who goes in for team work and to "play for the side," and the pitcher who is merely playing for a record of assistance on strikes.

THE CATCHER AS A FIELDER.

Catching behind the bat has come to be almost as important a position as that of the pitcher himself. There is a wonderful contrast in the play of the catchers of the present day and the comparatively



simple work the catchers of the old times had to attend to in their positions. When one thinks of Charley De Bost's easy task in facing Stevens' pitching in the old Knickerbocker Club days of 1857; or of the catching of Gelston of the old Eagles from Bixby's pitching; or that of Ed. Brown of the Eckfords from Frank Pidgeon's delivery; or of the graceful Masten of the old Putnams, in catching for Tom Dakin; or of Boerum in attending to Mat. O'Brien's pitching; all these lights of the old fraternity "pale their ineffectual fires" before the splendid work of Ewing, Flint, Bennett, Gilligan, Hackett, and others of the League class of professionals, or of that of Milligan, Snyder, Holbert, Bushong and others of the American Association. To stand up close behind the bat and face the hot fire of a swift curve pitcher, even when the balls come within comparatively easy reach, is no small task; but to do this, and also be keen-sighted and active enough to catch the stray wide balls which come almost between the legs of the batsman, as it were, requires the most skillful play known to the position. When it is considered what the duties of a first-class catcher are under the present high standard of play, it is not to be wondered at that really "A No. 1" catchers are at a premium. Some are noted for their pluck, nerve and skill in playing up close to the bat, and in taking those dangerous looking fly-tips; others for their agility and judgment in securing difficult foul balls; others, again, for their swift and accurate throwing to the bases; and still

others for their plucky endurance of punishment in supporting a wild delivery. But where is the catcher who combines in himself all these essentials of first-class play behind the bat? Echo answers: "Where?" In our book on "The Art of Pitching" we pointed out the absolute necessity of possessing control of temper in order to excel in the position. This essential is equally requisite in a catcher as in a pitcher. It is, we know, pretty trying for a catcher, while he is striving his best behind the bat, to find a pitcher venting his ill-humor on him because the pitching is being punished, or a chance for a difficult fly-tip happens to be missed; but to get vexed at this kind of thing only results in a catcher's weakening his play. Anger clouds the judgment, unstrings the nerves, and mars the sight; and, the moment a player loses control of his temper, away goes with it that presence of mind so necessary in playing base ball up to its highest standard.

Of the noted catchers of ten years ago the fine work done by White—Spalding's catcher in 1875—presented noteworthy features worthy of copying. His forte was his remarkable reticence and wonderful activity. He presented quite a model for catchers in his style of handling the ball—that is, in his method of making his hands a sort of spring-box, by which he lessens half the force of the blow in holding it from a swift delivery. His agility, too, was especially noteworthy. But what we admired about his play was his quiet, effective way of doing his work.

“Kicking” is something unknown to him. And just here in parenthesis let us say that there is one thing in which White stands pre-eminent, and that is that, in integrity of character, he is a model player. Not even the whisper of suspicion has ever been heard against “Jim White.” Herein lies as much of his value in a team as in his great skill as a player. This is a fact that club-managers thoroughly appreciate, as can be judged from the excellent selections made by the club-managers for 1886. It certainly inspires confidence to be able to insert in their circulars to the public a few remarks proving that “reputation is dear to players,” etc., but it is no more so than it should be; dollars, no matter how obtained, are of less value to players than reputation, and when this is apparent to the public they will accept the fact that all the skill a player possesses is put forth in every game.

A feature of first-class catching is a prompt and accurate return of the ball to the pitcher. This is as important for effective play as is a rapid delivery by the pitcher; we don't mean as regards pace, but in sending in balls in rapid succession, by which the batsman is obliged to be on the alert all the time, with but little opportunity afforded for leisurely judging the balls. Some catchers hold the ball, after receiving it from the pitcher, for some time, with a view of throwing it to a base, or being ready for that play. But the best plan is to promptly return it to the pitcher, unless a base runner has started to run on the actual delivery of the ball. We have seen many

a base stolen while the catcher has thus held the ball, apparently in readiness for a throw. A prompt return bothers a base runner, especially if the return throw is swift and accurate to the pitcher. But the main value of it is that it enables the pitcher to play his strong point of catching the batsman napping by a rapid return of straight balls when the batsman is not ready to strike. Spalding was the first to introduce this style of catching, in aid of his pitching, and he got many a strike out of it through White's quick returns.

There is one thing a catcher should not be held responsible for, and that is the costly consequences of a reckless delivery of the ball by a pitcher who lacks judicious control of temper. There is something outside the line of duty a catcher is called upon to perform. He may be required to support wild pitching, while he is removed from the responsibility of the errors immediately resulting from it; but he cannot be bound to support the reckless delivery of a bad-tempered pitcher. It is very easy to say that a catcher ought to be able to do this, that and the other, in his play behind the bat; but there is a limit to the work a first-class catcher should be held responsible for, and that limit does not include the errors plainly traceable to a reckless delivery.

The habit some catchers have of showing off their skill as swift throwers to bases is a bad one. All that is necessary to be done in the way of this throwing to bases when men are close to their base, is that of

showing the runners that you have good throwing at command, and that it will be necessary for them to take no risks. There is but one base a catcher can throw to with any degree of accuracy, and that is second base. There may be an exception to this rule, but it is rarely seen. Throwing to first base is the least advantageous throw made by a catcher, and throwing to third is next. Throwing to short-stop requires swift and accurate work and a quick return of the ball home, to be successful; and the short throws to second, to catch a player running home from third, is risky work, not one throw in four of this kind succeeding. As a general rule the catcher who confines his throwing to one position, viz., that of second base, will do far more work in catching base runners napping, than one who throws to all bases with the same frequency.

A vile habit which some catchers are prone to indulge in is that of growling at umpires and disputing their decisions, or ill-naturedly questioning their judgment. This is something a first-class catcher is never guilty of, his silent acquiescence in the decisions of umpires being a creditable feature of his play. Aside from the fact that it is illegal and unfair, it is the worst habit a catcher can indulge in, for growling only increases the prejudice of the umpire and confuses his judgment, and his errors are sure to tell against the grumbling catcher's side.

Some of the finest play behind the bat during 1885 was that shown in stopping and catching low, wide

balls. It is comparatively easy for a catcher to stand up close behind the bat and attend to the swift but accurate delivery of his pitcher; but the difficult part of his work lies in the activity and quickness of sight requisite in stopping low "side" balls.

BASE PLAY.

The three positions occupied by the first, second and third basemen require different qualifications to excel in them, though all need certain abilities alike. In all three positions opportunities are offered for distinct and local points of play. The duty of the first baseman is mainly to securely *hold* balls thrown to him while he has one foot touching the base; while that of the second baseman is chiefly to *touch* players as they run from first to second; the third baseman finding his principal work to consist of stopping hotly batted balls, catching high foul balls with a great twist given them by the bat, and in keeping players from running home, while trying at the same time to put strikers out running to first base.

But these things are but the foundation work of the occupants of the three positions. Base players are the defenders of the citadel of the field, and each and all of them require to be first-class men in regard to their activity and alertness of movement; their courage in facing and stopping hard-hit balls, and their ability to throw swiftly and accurately for the distances required in field work.

The first base can be best occupied by a left-handed player, as the hand most at command with such players faces the balls going close to the line of the base; while a left-handed player is decidedly out of place at either of the other infield positions. Of late seasons it has been the custom to cover the open gap between first and second bases by making the second baseman play at "right short;" but this has left a safe spot for sharp grounders close to second base, while it has also drawn round the short stop to second, and the third baseman to short-field to such an extent as to make hitting of ground balls near the line of third base a sure style of batting for earned bases.

Last season an element of weakness, in a majority of nines, prevailed in the form of "chin-music" and ill-natured "chaffing," in which base-players pretty generally took part. Joking is all very well in its way when it is indulged in good-naturedly, but when the so-called jokes are characterized by sarcastic allusions to a companion's weaknesses, or by irritating comments on your adversary's style of play, it becomes an evil which club managers should suppress. In some nines of the professional arena of 1885 one base player would not speak to another, while a third would comment ill-naturedly on every play made, good, bad, or indifferent. Indeed, a spirit of fault-finding prevailed more or less in every nine, and it had a very damaging effect on the general play of the nine in which it was permitted. While we would not care to see a nine play like a party of men devoid

of speech, there is a value in the rule of silence as far as "chaffing" or "chin-music," as it is called, is concerned, which should make it very generally enforced in the professional arena. Where, too, much talk is permitted there is sure to be bad play. Every player in a professional nine, and especially base players, should play his game *quietly*, to play it up to the best mark. The game needs all a man's wits in full force, and any talk, and especially anything in the way of fault-finding or ill-natured criticism, so bothers a player as to frequently lead him into errors of play he would not otherwise have committed.

FIRST BASE PLAY.

All basemen should be good ball catchers, but the occupant of the first base should specially excel in holding the swiftest thrown balls. He should, also, be fearless in facing hot balls from the bat, and expert in taking balls from the field, while holding one foot on the base. When a ball is hastily thrown to first base, his care should be to hold it, but at any rate to stop it. A good first base player ought to be able to hold a ball from the field, if it comes in anywhere within a radius of six feet from the base, and in case of high thrown balls he ought to take them at least eight feet high from the base. He must remember that the ball must be held by him—with some part of his person touching the base at the same time—*before* the striker reaches it, or the latter is not out; if the ball is held at the same time, the base runner

is not out. Some first base players have a habit of taking their feet off the base the moment the ball has been held, and this frequently leads them to do so before holding the ball, or so quickly as to look so to the umpire, and the result is, that the striker is declared not out. In receiving a ball from the field, the first baseman should stand on the base in such a manner as not to prevent the runner from reaching his base, as the umpire is justified in regarding any obstruction of the kind by the base player as intentional, if it could readily have been avoided, though the baseman may not have intended to obstruct his opponent, or prevent him from making his base except by legitimate means. In taking his position in the field, he should stand about twenty or thirty feet from the base toward the right field, and between the first and second bases, until the ball has been hit, when he should at once take his position with one foot on the first base, ready to receive the ball from the field. In taking his position for fielding, he will, of course, be guided by the style of batting opposed to him, standing further out in the field or closer to the base, according to the balls the batsman is in the habit of hitting. He should keep his eyes open for chances in points of play, especially when players are forced to vacate bases. Thus, for instance, suppose there is a player on the first base when a ball is struck to the pitcher and it is held by him on the bound, should the pitcher forget to pass the ball to second base and send it to first base instead—the runner

standing on the base in the *interim* instead of running to the second base—the point of play for the baseman would be to take the ball from the pitcher while off the first base, and first touching the player standing on the base, put his foot on the base with ball in hand, thereby making a double play; for though the base runner was on the base when touched, he had no legal right to be there, inasmuch as the batsman, not being put out, forced the base runner to leave the base, and he—the base runner—had no title to the first base until the batsman was put out. Had the baseman, in the above instance, touched the base first, with ball in hand, and then touched the player on it, the latter would not have been out, as, the moment the striker was put out the base runner ceased to be forced to leave the base. Similar points to this can frequently be made when a player is on the first base and the batsman hits a high ball, as the former, in case the ball is caught, has to return to first base, and in case it is missed is forced to leave for the second base, and is, therefore, very likely to be put out there. When an overthrown ball to first base is stopped by the crowd in any way—accidentally or intentionally—he must first throw it to the pitcher's position before he can use it to put a player out; and he should also remember that no ball hit by the batsman on which a balk has been called, can put the striker out no matter if held on the base in time, or caught on the fly, or on a foul bound.

The first baseman requires to be well posted as to

how far it will be safe for him to leave his base to field a slow rolling ball, which does not go within the fair reach of either the pitcher or second baseman. In regard to this point, it is known that there is a certain kind of ball just hit quietly along the ground to the center of a triangle formed by the positions of the pitcher, first baseman and second baseman at right short field, which almost invariably gives first base to an active runner, simply because it is a ball which tempts the first base player to try and field it himself, and all but old hands get trapped by it. Last season we saw several first base players try to field such short balls, and in nearly every case they failed. First-class basemen judge these balls admirably, and such leave them to the pitcher or second baseman to field to them unless they happen to come within a certain distance which the baseman knows he can get to and back before the batsman can travel from home to first. It is worthy of remark that these short hit balls are entitled to an earned base, no matter how poor the hit may look. No hit, be it remembered, is a "poor one" which allows the batsman a fair chance to earn his first base, while no matter how showy a hit may be, if it affords a chance for a catch, at the hands of a sharp and active fielder, it is a "poor hit."

THE SECOND BASEMAN'S POSITION.

We now come to the second baseman's position, and as far as base playing is concerned, it is one of

the most important positions in the game. In fact, there is no position in the infield which requires more judgment in its occupant than does that of the second base. The first baseman is, in a measure, limited in his sphere of operations, and so is the third baseman to a less extent. But the second baseman has the whole of the middle infield to cover, and by a lack of judgment he can readily give base after base to his opponents. The fact is, it requires a man of more tact and skill to fill this position than it does that of almost any other on the field, excepting, of course, the pitcher. Out-fielders have only to attend to their duties in catching and throwing, and the other basemen in special duties like that of the first baseman in holding balls thrown simply to him, and that of the third baseman in looking out for high foul balls. But the second baseman has to be equally expert in holding swiftly-thrown balls, and in looking out for high fly-balls, while he has, in addition, to be very quick in putting a ball on a baseman, and as active in backing up as the short-stop is required to be; and he has especially to be sharp in judging of a batsman's peculiar style of hitting, so as to be on the lookout to stop hot grounders passing near his base, or to catch high balls over the heads of the in-fielders intended to be safe hits. He is required, also, to cover second base and to play "right short stop," but his position in the field must be governed entirely by the character of the batting he is called upon to face. If a hard hitter comes to the bat, and swift balls are

being sent in, he should play well out in the field, between right field and second base, and be on the *qui vive* for long bound balls or high fly balls, which drop between the out-field and the second base line. When the batsman makes his first base the second baseman comes up and gets near his base in readiness to receive the ball from the catcher. He should remember that in a majority of cases his duty is to touch the base runner, and this it would be well to do in all cases when the latter is found off his base. The habit of touching base runners is a good one to get into, as there is then no likelihood of its being forgotten when it becomes necessary for a player to be touched. When the first baseman runs after the ball hit by the striker, the second baseman should at once make for the first base, as he is generally nearer to it than either the short stop or pitcher when balls are being hit between first and second bases. In timing for a throw to first base he should be sure of his aim, or, if in doubt, he should let the base be made, or otherwise the chances are that an overthrow will give his opponent his third instead of his first base. Hasty throwing is poor policy except the basemen are pretty sure in sending in a swift line ball, and there is a good man at first base to hold it. When a player is on the first base, and another on the third, the second baseman should be on the watch, so as to make a prompt return of the ball when the catcher throws to the second, and the man on the third attempts to run home on the throw.

There is ample time for a ball to be thrown from home to second and back to put out a player running home, if the throwing is accurate and swift and the catching sure.

It must be borne in mind by players that a player, running from home to first base, is allowed to over-run his base without running the risk of being put out, provided he promptly returns to the base after over-running it; but should he attempt to make his second after over-running, then he loses his privilege of returning. The rule is confined to the first base, but it should be applied to all.

Second base playing now requires the player to be not only a base player *per se*, but a right short stop in addition, he having to play in both positions. As a base player he must not only be able to hold a ball thrown to him "hot" from "home" in good style, but he must be quick in his motions in putting it on the player running to the base. In fact, he should not only hold it as the first-base player does, but combine with the sure hold of the ball the activity in touching players required in the position. Then, too, he must be able to cover all the ground at "right short," as well as close around his own base, and to do this well he ought to possess the requisite "head-work" to be able to judge of the hits by the pitcher's delivery, and by the style in which the batsman "faces" or "forms" for striking. In fact, the second baseman must be one of the most active of in-fielders, and a very accurate thrower for short distances

besides requiring to be a man who can use his judgment to aid him.

THIRD BASE PLAY.

The most difficult of the positions on the bases to play well is that of third base, and of late years it has become more than ordinarily important from the introduction of the scientific style of batting, which aims only to secure first base easily—a phase of this batting being sharp ground hits along the foul line which the third baseman has especially to attend to. In fact, what with the high twisting balls sent foul from the bat toward third base, and the hot grounders, which are so difficult to pick up and throw quickly and accurately enough to first base, the third baseman requires to be a fielder of more than ordinary ability, and one possessing considerable judgment. It won't do for a third baseman to take up a regular position every time he goes to the field, for the batting now in vogue requires him to change his place more frequently even than at second base. In one and the same inning he will be required to play between third and home bases and ten feet inside of the foul ball line to cover short ground balls, while another batsman may oblige him to act almost as short stop, and another force him well back into the field for high fouls. Then, too, he has to watch his base very closely when players are running their bases, as he has to take throws from the catcher and pitcher, as well as from the other in-field players.

To stop a long hot grounder sent close to third base and to throw over in time to first base requires the most skillful of fielding, a combination of the brilliant "pick-ups" of Denney or Williamson, and the speed and accuracy of Sutton's throwing. The third baseman, too, has considerable work to do in running after high foul balls out of reach of the catcher.

When Ferguson filled the third baseman's position in the Atlantic nine about a dozen years ago he did some model fielding there. The style in which he picked up hot ground balls excelled anything ever before seen on a ball-field, no one approaching him in this respect. His quick throwing, too, was noteworthy; also his sure catching of fly balls. His excellence in picking up difficult grounders had been attained by practice in hand-ball playing; and club managers will find that practice in the hand-ball courts will be more effective in training their players than any gymnasium work can be; for it trains to the endurance of fatigue, makes a man specially active, toughens the hands, and trains a ball player to field the most difficult of ground balls, besides educating his sight in fielding balls better than any thing else can do.

The importance of the third base position lies in the fact that on the play of the third-baseman, and on his sharp fielding of difficult balls, will frequently depend the loss of runs to his opponents, when the failures on the other bases are only made at the cost of a single base. In the case of a miss-play at third

base, however, one or more runs scored is generally the result, that is, in cases where players are running their bases. When no men are on the bases the third baseman will have to be active in fielding the ball, and quick and accurate in throwing it, in order to prevent the striker from making his base. The third baseman takes a position closer to his base than either of the other basemen. Sometimes, however, he takes the place of the short stop when the latter covers the second base in cases where the second baseman plays at right short for a right-field hitter. In throwing from base to base hastily, take care that you throw low, rather than high, as a low ball can be stopped if not handled, whereas a ball overhead gives a run in nearly every instance. In fact, as a general thing, it is safer to allow a player to make one base than to run the risk of helping him to two or three bases by an overthrow. Accurate throwing from base to base is a pretty feature of the game, and with straight throwers and sure catchers can be safely indulged in at all times, for though a player may not be put out by a throw, when he sees the ball thrown straight and handed prettily, it makes him hug his bases closer.

Your earnest, reliable base player when he goes into a match, or even a practice game, plays ball from the word "Go" until the contest is ended. He plays to win, but only to win fairly and manfully, and not like a tricky knave. He never plays to show off, never puts on airs, or plays one time earnestly and

another time lazily or indifferently, as too many do, but he works like a beaver at all times, and that is the way to play ball.

THE SHORT STOP'S POSITION.

Of late years the position of short stop has almost become the key to the infield. The time was when the short fielder was regarded simply in the light of a waiter on the pitcher. In the old Hoboken days short stops were at one time thought to be rather in the way in the infield than otherwise; but when Johnny Grum, Dicky Pearce, Charley Thomas and other noteworthy occupants of that position, some twenty odd years ago, began to develop the resources of the short stop, and to practically illustrate the points of the position, there was quite a change of opinion on the subject. Since then short fielding has become the strongest force of the attacking power in the infield outside of the pitcher's position. The reason is that the short fielder occupies the position of a sort of rover. Unlike the base players, though he has a fixed position in one respect—standing as he does in the field midway between third baseman and second baseman—his duty is to occupy the position of all three of the basemen when occasion requires. Moreover, he is the general backer-up of all the infielders. No short stop who does not excel in this special feature of his position is fit to occupy it. In addition, it is necessary that the short fielder should be a man of quick perception, prompt to judge of a

situation, to take in all the points of the position at a glance, and to be able to act quickly and with decision. A peculiarity of short field play is that too often the reputation of a short stop is made or marred by the character of the play of the first baseman. We know of several short stops in years gone by whose success in playing their position was largely due to the effective support given them by their first baseman. The short fielder has many a ball come to him which is hard to stop and pick up so as to throw it in time to a base, that, unless the baseman happens to be a player who can pick up a sharply thrown bounding ball, or reach out and securely hold a wide side thrown ball, or jump up and capture a high thrown ball, the play of the short fielder is sure to suffer. On such occasions, when hard hit balls are well stopped by the short fielder, and he scarcely has time to get them in hand to throw accurately, unless he is sure of his baseman, the hit yields an earned base. Hence the importance of having first basemen in position who can not only do what ordinary first basemen are called upon to do, viz., stop hard thrown and straight balls, but who are able to shine in their position by stopping—if they cannot always field them—wide-thrown balls. The majority of the crowd of spectators cannot see how wide or bad a throw is made to first or second bases from short field, but they can see whether it be held or not; and when the ball is held the most of the credit of the out is given to the short stop for his

assistance, when, in fact, but for the fine playing of the baseman in holding the wide or low thrown balls, the runner would have secured his base. The beauty of George Wright's throwing to first base was his accuracy of aim; knowing his own power of swift throwing, he would wait until sure of his aim, and then let the ball go like a rifle-shot. He has had many imitators in swift throwing to the bases, but very few in the accuracy of his aim, and it was in that particular that he so greatly excelled. A swift thrower from short field, even when supported by a first-class first baseman, is a costly player as a general thing. He likes to show off his speed too much, and forgets too often the cost of the exhibition. The short fielder requires to be in full accord with the pitcher in regard to being familiar with the latter's special points of strategic play, so that he may duly prepare either to stand in closer or out further than usual. He should also be able to understand signals from the catcher, in order that the latter player, in throwing to second base, should be posted as to which man to throw to—second baseman or short stop. Thus, for instance, if a player be on first base, ready to run to second, and he should see the second baseman ready to receive a ball, he will hesitate to run; but should he see the baseman standing at "right short," leaving the second base apparently unprotected, he will run the risk of attempting to make the base. In this case the short-field should be able to signal the catcher that he is ready for the point, and

at the same time that the catcher prepares to throw the ball to the base the short stop should be there to receive it, the latter starting to run from short to second just as the base runner starts to run from first to second. We merely refer to this point in order to illustrate the character of fielding an effective short stop is called upon constantly to attend to. He should always be in motion while the ball is in play in the field, first in watching balls that are sent to his own position, secondly in backing up the third base, and lastly in playing the second baseman's position, or in supporting the pitcher, to which player he should be a sort of special attendant, in order to save him as much work as he can. Moreover, the short stop requires to be an exceedingly swift and accurate thrower, as of all positions wild throwing from short field is the most costly. He should also be a very sure catch, especially in judging of those difficult high balls which almost belong to the outfielder's position to take. The short field is especially adapted for an active fielder of short stature, as they can more readily attend to those short, sharp grounders which form the majority of balls to the short stop's position, and which are generally so difficult for a tall or heavily-built man to attend to.

The short stop should be constantly on the alert; quick in his movements, active of foot, a quick and straight thrower at short distances, and especially a man of good judgment, so as to know when to throw and when not to throw after fielding a ball. There

was some very poor play shown by short stops last season, in the way of ill-judged throws. Some would throw hastily and swiftly, after failing to pick up a ball neatly, and thereby would add a wild throw to their fielding error. Others, again, would pick up a ball prettily and then be so deliberate in throwing—depending too much upon their speed—that when the ball did go to the first base it was too “hot” or too “wide” to be held. A short stop should be ready to run up and field a short hit between pitcher and third, or to run out and take a high fly short of the left field. The short stop has the best and the most chances given him for double plays on dropped fly balls, but it is not an easy thing to do. It will no longer do to catch the ball and then drop it, the point of play now being to let it go to the ground and then field it at once, covering the ball as it drops. The best-played “point” in this respect we ever saw at the hands of a short stop was that played by George Wright on McDonald and Pearce in the first Atlantic and Red Stocking match of 1870. It occurred in the tenth inning of the game, after the Atlantics had retired the Reds for a blank score, and, with the figures at 5 to 5, had two men on the bases, with but one hand out, and just one run to get to win. McDonald was at second base and Pearce at first, with Smith at the bat. One good hit would have sent McDonald home and have won the game. First came a foul ball out of reach, and then Charley popped up a high ball, which George Wright pre-

pared himself to take, and Pearce, seeing the almost certainty of the catch, held his base, as did McDonald, George Wright being careful to avoid any movement likely to indicate the point he intended to play. Suddenly, however, as the ball fell, George dropped into a stooping position, placed his hands flat to receive the ball near the ground, and the result was the ball bounded out of his hands on to the ground. It was picked up sharply, sent like a rifle shot to third base, where Waterman stood ready to hold it—thereby putting out McDonald, forced off from second; and by Waterman the ball was promptly sent to Sweasy, putting out Pearce, forced off from first. The result of this well played point was the retirement of the Atlantics for a blank score. The plan of holding out the palms of the hands flat so as to allow the ball to bound dead out of the hands, and with the twist taken out of it before reaching the ground, is the best way of playing this point. Another way is to let the ball bound and smother it as it rises. It won't do to catch the ball and then drop it, as that amounts to a "momentarily" holding of the ball and consequently a catch.

A great many errors in fielding—or rather in failing to field—sharply hit ground balls, were charged to short stops last season for which they were not responsible. It is not generally understood that when the ball has a strong bias or twist imparted to it by the pitcher, and when it is sharply hit to the ground, it will diverge from the direct line of progress the

moment it strikes the ground, and in such a way as entirely to deceive the fielder, who is prepared for the regular rebound only, and not to find the ball rebounding to the right or left and with unusual speed. These failures to stop ground balls are not errors, as they cannot be provided for by the most expert fielding.

Cool judgment in critical points of a game should be a feature of first-class short fielding. This was a merit of Dick Pearce's play in the old days, as was his sound judgment in all the strategical points. In emergencies and critical positions of a contest no other man was so cool and collected as Pearce. It was this very thing which really won the game for the old Atlantic nine in their second contest in 1860 with the Excelsiors, when the players on both sides, as well as the umpire, became befogged about a point of play in running the bases—a point which Pearce alone saw and explained—the result being two men and side out for the Excelsiors, and their demoralization when they had the game in their hands. In this respect Dick excelled all the other short stops of his day.

SHORT FIELDING.

More opportunities are afforded the short fielder for playing strategic points in putting out base runners than are presented to any other occupant of the infield. He has greater supervision over the infield

than any other player, and he combines in his position the double office of short stop and base player, being called upon to play both second and third bases, in emergencies, quite frequently. He is also the general backer-up of the infield. For this reason the short stop requires to be a player very quick to judge of points in strategic play, and to be perfectly familiar with every rule of the game, besides being cool and nerry in exciting periods of a contest. To illustrate: Suppose all three of the bases are occupied in the last inning of a game, with but one man out, but one run to get, and a hard hit ball is sent direct to the short stop; though a good fielder might be able to stop the ball well enough, such a player, lacking nerve and presence of mind for prompt action, or the judgment to decide quickly what was best to be done, would commit some error or other in throwing the ball which would allow the winning run to be scored, and yet neither muff the ball in fielding it, or throw it to the base wildly.

It is worthy of remark, as something which once upon a time had to be referred to, that it is in the short stop's position that honesty tells, for it is in cases of this kind that chances to hide a crooked piece of play are offered. To fumble a hard-hit ground ball, to make a feint to throw it to a base to put a runner out, and then throw it just too late to catch the striker at first base; or to throw it home so swiftly as to render it impossible for the catcher to stop it in time, are plays which may be legitimate errors, and yet may

be intentional misplays. It all depends upon what the character of the short stop is.

A word about the recording of short stop's errors: As a rule scorers were too hard on short stops' last season in the way of charging them with errors. We saw some scorers charge short stops with errors when they failed to stop a hard hit ground ball well enough to pick it up and throw it in time to the base. To stop a hard hit grounder, even if the ball be not sent to the base in time, is a good play, and no error. If it is sent to the base in time, it is a splendid piece of fielding. Frequently hard hit balls from curved line pitching, when they strike the infield in front of the short stop, diverge on the rebound at a tangent, and thus escape capture. This, too, was frequently charged as an error when a base hit should have been credited. There is altogether too great a tendency to charge errors to fielders—to short stops in particular—in cases where hard hit ground balls are not stopped in time. It is difficult to do it even on a smooth, velvety turf like that of the infield of the old Union Grounds of years ago, and almost impossible on a rough or uneven infield, like that of the majority of ball fields.

The play in a game when the bases are occupied by runners is frequently marred by the failure of the short stop to back up basemen to whom the catcher or pitcher throws. There should always be an understanding between the short stop and both pitcher and catcher in regard to the

special conditions which will occasion either to make throws to the basemen, so that the short stop might always be on the *qui vive* to back up well. There was a tendency shown by some short stops last season to indulge in showy, swift throwing, as also in somewhat careless, slow throwing. A ball would be batted hard to the short stop, but still so as to enable him to pick it up in time, and when he had done this well he would take his time in throwing, and then send it in hot to the baseman, when a slower throw would have answered the purpose better had he thrown it as soon as he had fielded it. This was often done to "show off" in fast throwing, and of course, at the risk of the ball not being held in time. When a ball is hit to short stop so as to make it difficult to stop and field in time for the throw, then a swift throw is justifiable. But this throwing fast when the fielder has time for a moderate and more accurate throw, is not "good form" in short field work. Neither is the slow toss of the ball to the baseman, when the ball from the bat is one which gives the short stop ample time to throw it to the baseman. The habit of play in throwing should be straight-line throwing, with moderate but timely speed, leaving very swift throwing to special emergencies, when the critical period of a contest may excuse some extra risk being incurred. There was considerable throwing done from short field last season which may be classed as bad throwing, from the fact that it was not a point to throw the ball at all.

It is in this respect that the record of errors comes in with objectionable effect. There are numerous times in the course of a match when it is better play to hold a ground ball from the bat instead of throwing it to the base. These instances occur when there is no runner on a base, or only one on first base, and the ball hit to the short stop is a difficult one to pick up. Too frequently in such cases the fielder will try to escape the result of a "juggle" or "fumble" of the ball by a hasty throw, and generally at the cost of a double error in the form of either a wild throw or a failure to hold the ball by the base player. Better to abide by the one error and escape the double one by holding the ball and keeping the runners from getting extra bases. As regards the short stop acting as temporary second baseman, except when a ball is hit to right short and a runner is on first and is forced, it depends upon the peculiar style of batting of the man at the bat as to whether short stop plays as second baseman or not. Ordinarily, with a right hand batsman at the bat, the short stop will play in his own position. But when he sees the batsman "facing" for a right field hit, he should move down to cover second base, leaving the second baseman to go to right short. The same course should be pursued, too, when left-handed men come to the bat. Under the circumstances of the marked increase in right field batting of late years, and of the introduction of batting quartets of left-handed hard hitters the necessity for the short stop being able to be a good second base

player, becomes very apparent. A point played last season with good effect at times was that of the catcher throwing to short stop when a runner was on third, and another ran down from first to second to get the man on third home. This was not done in the old style of throwing to short stop's position, but in throwing a little to the left of second base, the short stop jumping forward and taking the ball and promptly returning it to the catcher in time. When the ball is swiftly thrown and accurately returned, the play invariably yields an out; but it must be understood by signal to be done effectually. There was one thing in short field play which was not always attended to properly last season, and that was the want of habits of play in throwing to each base according to regular rule. Unless a short stop plays by regular rule, habitually making the proper throw at the proper time, he is apt to get confused when left to judge a throw in a second of time. When two men are out, the short stop should disregard all temptation to throw a fielded ground ball anywhere but to the first baseman. When a runner is on first, too, such a fielded ball should be sent to second base habitually, except in the case of two men being out. Plays of this kind should be done by rule, and so habitually that the play becomes natural to the fielder, and he does it by instinct, as it were. In such cases, balls which come to him hard to field in time will reach the baseman sooner than they would if he were not habituated to certain rules of play. We have seen

some splendid short fielding in our day, but there is still room for more points and even better play than any yet exhibited.

THE OUT FIELD POSITIONS.

Quite a change has taken place within the past few years in reference to the importance of each position in the outfield. Twenty years ago the left field position was regarded as the position. That was in the days of the ten-inch-round, two-and-a-half rubber ball, and when the so-called "splendid hits" to left field were regarded as the feature of the game, and fielding skill was considered of secondary importance. Now the most difficult work is done in the right field, and the old-time features of outfielding, the catching of long fly balls, has been superseded by brilliant instances of assistance in putting out players on bases by quick and accurate throwing in of balls, from the outfield positions. To one accustomed to see the headwork play of skillful outfielders of the present day, the old-time method would appear laughable. The old outfielder—even after the days of the bound-catch of fair balls—seldom deemed it worth his while to leave his position to go after a ball flying to any other position in the outfield. Playing for the side was then unknown, except in the instance of the old Atlantic nine, and also the Excelsior nine in 1860. In those days—and some players practice the same thing now—an outfielder thought he did his work well if he caught the fly-

ball that came to him, without troubling himself to run far to get it. Anything like an assistance in putting out players on bases from balls thrown in from the outfield was comparatively rare play, except that now and then an effort was made to put out players trying to make home runs. All this has been changed. During 1884 some of the prettiest outfield work that was done was in making brilliant plays in doubling up base runners from quick returns of base-hit balls to the outfield, and from double plays from well-taken fly balls, not to mention the many instances of sharp fielding in assistance rendered from right field in putting out strikers before they reached first base. Of course there are instances in which much of the importance of an outfield position is derived from the peculiar character of the ground. As a general thing, however, the three positions are pretty equal in their call for service from players, though, if anything, the right field has the preference, as being the place to put the best outfielder of the three.

An important effect of sharp outfield play in the quick return in of fielded balls, is that of bothering base runners. Any experienced base runner knows very well that in four cases out of five he can tell whether a long-hit ball from the bat is going to be held or not by this or that outfielder; and in this knowledge he makes his estimate of how many bases he can make on his hit. If the hit is a high one, falling a little short of the outfielder's position, so as

to oblige him to run in for the ball, and he knows his fielder well, he goes for the second or third on the hit, sure. But in the case of outfielders like Hornung, Hines or Evans it is difficult to tell when a ball is safe or not, if hit high in the air, and hence fewer bases are risked in running when such skillful outfielders are seen going after a ball than is done in the case of ordinary outfielders, not so remarkably long-reached nor active. It is in this special point of play that great activity, backed up by headwork, comes in with such telling effect in outfield positions.

The substitution of a comparatively dead ball in the game, compared to the old lively rubber filled ball of years past, has had the effect of materially changing the character of outfield play, and of giving more importance to the playing of the outfield positions. When the old rubber ball was in use and heavy hitting to the outfield was the rule, all the outfielders had to do was to stand out as far as they could, catch the ball and throw it in promptly; no opportunities were afforded them then for judging of a batsman's play, as it was all chance hitting, each going in to hit the ball as hard as he could, and with no idea as to which part of the field the ball would be likely to go. Since the dead ball has been in use, however, outfielders have been allowed opportunities for "headwork" in judging of the style of batting by their opponents, and of playing their positions accordingly. For this reason in choosing outfielders for first-class professional nines, something more than

the mere ability of the fielder to catch the ball and throw it in a long distance must be considered, and that something is the judgment of the fielder in being able to play the strategical points of his position, and to do something more than to merely stand out in the field and catch a ball that comes to him, or to run after one and throw it in a hundred yards. We have seen outfielders not only watch carefully every private signal of the pitcher, but also judge for themselves in the matter of the style of the batsman's play, and to get in closer, stand out further, get nearer to the foul ball lines, or to move more to the left or right as the style of hitting appears to require, thereby showing their ability to play the strategical points of their positions. In the case of using an elastic ball, any man who is a safe catcher and a long distance thrower will do to play in the outfield against lively ball batting; but in the case of the use of a dead ball, with its accompaniment of scientific batting, outfielders must be men who can use their heads as well as their hands, or the positions will not be efficiently played.

Outfielders should never stand still or occupy one position all the time, but be ever on the move, ready for a quick run, or to back up each other. They should never hold a ball a minute, but promptly return it to the infield as soon as handled. In thus returning the ball they should invariably send it in to the second baseman, unless some other fielder is designated on call by the captain. But in the case of

a fly catch in the outer field, when bases are being run, the outfielder should, of course, throw to the base player the base runner is returning to. The outfield is the place for the change pitcher of the nine to occupy. All three of the outfielders should watch the movements of the pitcher and batsman closely, so as to be ready to judge the ball likely to be hit to them. When a good batsman is at the home base they can get in closer than when a home-run hitter handles the ash. When the outfielders see that foul balls are being hit frequently, they should get up near the foul ball line. It is easier to run in for a short ball than to back out for a high one, and therefore they should not stand in too close, though going out too far is worse still. No outfielder should stand still simply because the ball does not happen to come in his direction. Activity and judgment in being prompt in support is characteristic of first-class play in the out as well as in the infield. With the comparatively dead ball now in use outfielders will do well to stand in closer than hitherto. It is better to let a long ball go over your head now and then than to miss the chance of taking short high balls on the fly, which are sent just over the heads of the infielders. Where one long ball is hit five short ones are sent to the outer field.

In regard to running in for a catch, it is always better to stop and be sure of fielding the ball than to continue to run in in the hope of catching it in brilliant style, only to find yourself overrunning the ball,

and thereby letting your adversary secure an extra base or an unearned run. Such a thing as a double play from an outfield catch used to be very rare; and putting out a player at first base from a throw in from right field, was a feat almost unknown. Now an outfielder does not play up to his mark unless he frequently makes such plays during a season's campaign.

No one would suppose that after sixteen years of regular professional playing, and of even a longer experience than that in the training of professional nines, any outfielder would be found playing his position as if he were a mere ornamental figure in the team, and only played in one particular position to attend to particular balls which happened to come directly to where he was standing. But yet several such players were seen in the outfield teams of a few professional nines last season. That is, they played their position as if they had only a limited portion of ground to cover, and therefore had no occasion to get out of their special locality to field balls sent to the positions of other out-fielders. "What d'yer blame me for? It wan't my ball; it was the center-fielder's ball." This was the tenor of many of the explanations made by this class of outfielders last season, when they were called upon to answer the charge of making an error in not properly attending to their duties. The great point in outfielding is to send each man into the position to play as if he were the only outfielder present to cover the whole outfield. The idea that a left fielder has only to attend to left

field balls and a right fielder to those sent to right field, is an exploded rule of the old amateur days. What the short fielder is to the basemen in the infield in giving them support by judicious backing-up, so should each of the three outfielders be to one another. The moment a long high ball, or a hard-hit liner, or a hopping ball is hit to the outfield, that moment every one of the three outfielders should be on the alert to catch it, stop it, or to field it when it happens to be missed or fumbled by the fielder to whose particular position the ball is sent. Of course it should be plainly understood beforehand as to who is to attend to the high fly ball when it comes, so as to avoid a dangerous collision, and the dropping of the ball between two hesitating fielders. In all other instances, too, no proper outfielding is done unless it is seen that all three fielders are in motion after the ball, hit to any part of the outfield. Here is an instance of how this thing works: In a match last season a long high ball was hit to the left fielder's position. The moment the ball was seen flying to the outfield all three of the fielders were on the move after it. The left fielder backed down on running to catch it; the center fielder ran down near him, to be ready to field it in case of a drop, and the right fielder ran up toward the infield to be ready to forward the ball in on a sharp, quick throw toward infield. A splendid catch was made by the left fielder, and he had time for a long throw in to third base; but the point we wish show is that of

the prompt assistance afforded by the other two outfielders working together as a team, which the three outfielders should be taught to do in all first-class nines. But this particular branch of the system of "playing for the side" is never seen where your outfielders are composed of men playing for a record. Your record man seldom troubles himself about balls out of his district; and if, being a left fielder, he sees a ball sent flying to right field, he just folds his arms and becomes a mere looker-on, even if he does not inwardly hope to see a rival fielder make a muff, by means of which his own record will be benefited; whether that be done at the cost of the team at large, and perhaps that of the game itself, does not affect his sole consideration being his record; and if he is kept all right by his leading his two companions in center and right fields, everything else is of no consequence. Nowadays catching high fly balls by muffing batsmen to the outfield in their efforts for home run applause, is one of the least an outfielder has to do. And, moreover, it is foolish to think that an outfielder who has made an average of one catch to a match, may have done more service to his side, by splendid fielding support in backing up and assisting the two other fielders, whose record in the average figures is at the top. Harry Wright, when at center field in the early days of the Boston nine, used to show the outfielders the one upon the principle of playing for the side, the fine style. He always led in assistance from

his position, and in backing up. Harry got at balls at center field that few outfielders ever trouble themselves to go for; he knew where to lay for most hitters—a great point in outbelding. Some splendid work in making difficult catches was done in the outfield last season, and also in throwing balls in accurately and in time. And, by the way, this throwing-in business is something which offers a field for improvement. Your long-throwers are just as fond of throwing balls in from the outfield for the sake of the throw, as fast throwers in the infield are in throwing fast to first base. Throwing home to the catcher from the outfield is a very nice thing to do, and it is important that it be done well if attempted at all, as overthrows from this quarter are damaging, in that they invariably yield runs instead of merely outs. It is no easy matter for an outfielder, after concentrating his mind on the effort to catch a difficult ball, to turn suddenly and grasp the idea of the position of the infield quickly enough to know to what to throw. In such cases a throw home is generally resorted to, and in three cases out of five an overthrow is the result. The rule for outfield throwing should be—*when in doubt, throw into short field.* The outfield of the League teams of 1884 was the worst of the year. The Providence nine, and yet they did not play unbecomingly, mark as a team that the three positions admitted of considerable room for improvement in outfield team-playing. One reason is, that to a certain extent team-playing in the outfield is not

ficing work, as far as the average record is concerned. When the fielding averages are made up from data which cover the whole ground, and not simply a portion of it, as it does now, then we shall see better team work in the outfield. Let it be borne in mind that a well-trained professional nine contains three distinct teams, which work together as a whole—that is, the “battery,” or team of pitcher and catcher, the basemen’s team, and the outfield team. When nines are composed of men selected on the basis of this team principle, and not for their individual records, then we shall see better work done.

GENERAL HINTS ON FIELDING.

There is no habit fielders have that is more characteristic of school boys, or which leads to more unpleasantness and ill-feeling in a match, than that of finding fault with those who commit errors of play in the field. Every man in the field tries to do his best for his own credit’s sake, and if he fails, censure but adds to his chagrin without in the least improving his play; on the contrary, fault-finding is only calculated to make him play worse. In no game are the amenities of social life more necessary to a full enjoyment of the pastime than in base ball. Particularly acceptable are words of commendation for good play, and remarks calculated to remove the annoyance arising from errors in the field, to young ball players, and these form some of the strongest incentives to extra

exertion on their part, besides promoting kindly feelings on the field and during the game. We must enter our protest against the fault-finding, grumbling and snarling disposition which continually censures every failure to succeed, and barely tolerates any creditable effort that does not emanate from themselves, or in which they do not participate. Such men as these constitutional grumblers are the nuisances of a ball field, and destroy all the pleasure which would otherwise result from the game. Every manly player will keep silent when he sees an error committed, or if he makes any remark at all, will apologize for it in some way. Those who find fault and growl at errors of play are of the class who prefer to gratify their malice and ill-temper at the expense of the unlucky fielder who happens to "muff" a ball or two in a game.

Fielders should remember that the captain of the nine is alone the spokesman of the party and the commander of the field.

No outfielder should hold a ball a moment longer than it is necessary for him to handle it in throwing. In the infield, however, a ball can be sometimes held by the fielder with safety and advantage.

Never stand still in your position simply because the ball happens to go in another direction than the position you occupy, but always be on the move to aid the other fielders, or to back them up. Activity in the field and judgment in being prompt in support is the characteristic of a first-class fielder.

Play earnestly at all times, whether in an ordinary practice game or in a match. Get into the habit of doing your best on all occasions. It is invariably the mark of a vain and conceited ball player to walk on the field and play in a game as if he was conferring a favor by participating in the game; and players who play with an air of indifference as to the result of the game, or who become despondent when the odds are against them, are no players for a first-class nine.

Next to seeing a man field well, the most attractive thing is to see a player take things easy and good-naturedly. If you miss a fly ball, allow an important ball to pass you, or fail to handle a ball in time on a base, nothing is more boyish than to vent your ill-temper on some one who may have balked you in catching it, or thrown it to you badly. Control yourself and take it smilingly, or if you lack the moral courage to do that, keep your mouth shut at least. Your good-natured fellows w'ho play their best all the time, and yet take everything bad or good with a good-natured smile, are as desirable as companions on a ball field as your growlers are to be detested.

When an error of play is committed do your best at once to remedy the evil by using your best efforts to get at the ball, either after missing it, letting it pass you, or failing to hold it. Some players after "muffing" a ball will walk after it like an ill-tempered, sulky ten-year-old.

THROWING TO FIRST BASE.

Throwing to first base to catch a runner napping was a frequent thing in the old days—now it is justly regarded as a play of only exceptional occurrence. Now and then there may be a pitcher who has a rare knack of dodging a runner out by a throw of this kind; but, as a general rule, no strategic pitcher will allow himself to be put out of pitching form by the efforts of a daring runner to induce him to throw to first base. The rule now is for the pitcher to trust to his strategic delivery to the bat to catch the runner at first base at fault, and this he does by causing the batsman to force him out at second. Under the new balk rule the pitcher finds it difficult to catch runners napping at first base unless he and the catcher have the signal business well arranged. In fact, the pitcher's efforts will in the main now be devoted to inducing the runner on first to go down to second, where sharp play between the pitcher and catcher will give better chances to throw out runners than than before.

RUNNING BASES ON FLY CATCHES.

We noticed in the play of the best base-running teams of 1884 that, when a long fly ball was hit to the outfield, runners on the bases held possession of their bases until the ball touched the hands of the fielder, and was either caught or dropped. Such runners never left their bases when the ball was hit,

but stayed on them, ready to run on the catch or the drop. Runners who blundered in their work would invariably run halfway down and stop and watch the ball, and, in case of a catch, they would thereby have an additional forty or fifty feet to run, besides gaining little or nothing if the ball was dropped. If at any time when they saw a high ball hit to the outfield, and under the impulse of the moment they left their base, they would promptly return to the base and wait until the catch was made.

TEAM WORK IN FIELDING.

We have before called attention to the marked difference between the field work of what we call a mere picked nine, viz., a nine composed of good players in their respective positions, but who are entirely new to each other's style of play—or, if not, are equally disqualified from doing team work by the uncongeniality of their dispositions, or from like causes—and a nine who work together as a whole with machine-like unity and effect, and who are a regular team in their trained method of playing into one another's hands for the benefit of the side. It is very evident that the importance of this difference is being realized more and more each season, and the result is that nines are being organized more on the sound basis of their doing team work than in accordance with the old plan of selecting mere picked nines.

BACKING UP.

Backing each other up is one great feature of the play of first-class basemen. Indeed, infield work can never be effectually attended to without it. Backing up is, in fact, an essential of successful fielding in every part of the diamond, but especially is it necessary in the infield. When the old method of fielding in vogue twenty years ago at Hoboken is remembered and contrasted with such fielding as was exhibited by the champion Providence team of 1884, one can readily see what a vast improvement has taken place, not only in fielding generally, but especially in base play. In the old times the only infielder who ever thought of backing up a companion was the short stop, and even he considered that his chief duty in this respect was to attend to the pitcher only. Base players of the olden time, with some rare exceptions, never thought of leaving their positions to field a ball, or to assist in fielding it, which went to any position save their own, hence base running was done in that time which yielded bases such as could not be run now in any of our nines. One special feature of the best team work in fielding during the season of 1884 was the effective play shown in "backing up" one another. This involved, of course, some extra field work, but the advantages accruing from it more than compensated for the additional labor. It worked in this way: The ball was pitched to the bat; it was hit to the infield in such a way as

to necessitate sharp handling in picking up the ball in time to get it to the base. Promptly on the hit being made, the pitcher and catcher ran behind the first base to stop the ball in case of a wide throw. Perhaps five times out of six this backing up was not actually needed; but it was there the important sixth time, with the result of two or three bases saved, if not a base runner put out. This system, carried out in all the positions, not only inspires confidence in fielders obliged to throw quickly, but it deters base running, and keeps runners from taking risks to reach bases they would otherwise attempt. Besides which, it gives confidence to the field by making their work more that of a trained team than of a mere picked nine.

Every base player should be active in "backing up" in the infield. The life of fielding is in the support afforded each other by the fielders who are located near together. A good fielder or base player never stands still; he is always on the move, ready for a spring to reach the ball, a stoop to pick it up, or a prompt movement to stop it, and he always has his eye upon the ball, especially when it is flying about inside the base lines, or from base to base. Poor base players seldom put themselves out of the way to field a ball unless it comes within their special district, but a good base player is on the alert to play at a moment's notice, on any base from which the player has gone after the ball. When bases are vacated, or foul or fly balls are struck, all the base play-

ers should handle the ball in the same way as the first base player does in putting out the batsman or running to first base.

CAPTAINING A TEAM.

“Who shall we have to captain the nine?” was the general query at the meetings of club-stockholders when the teams of 1886 were being organized; and the practical answer made to the question was one which had an important bearing on the welfare and success of each team during the season’s campaign. “Let the men select their own captain,” was one response; “The manager had better appoint the captain,” was another; while in a third case the leading official of the club took upon himself the responsibility of appointing the captain. The difficulty in the way of either one or the other of these plans succeeding was the fact that in too many cases there was no man in the team competent to fill the bill properly. If one of the players from among whom the captain had to be selected was found able to act as captain from his knowledge of the rules of the game and of points of play, he was also generally found to be deficient in other and equally essential qualifications for the position—that is, he either lacked the power to control his team by possessing their confidence and respect, or he had not the requisite coolness and nerve in trying positions in a match; or he needed that important essential, a control of temper. Hence

the captaincy of teams, in many instances, fell into hands unfitted for the duties devolving upon the position. To be able to captain a first-class professional nine properly is to do something scarcely one player out of fifty can do. Let us glance for a moment at the qualifications necessary in a first-rate captain of a nine, and then we can judge better whether the club-team about selecting a captain possesses any player competent to fill the office, even acceptably. No position in a professional nine requires such marked and peculiar abilities as that of a first-class captain. One of the most important requisites is thorough control of temper—without that, all the other essentials will be practically useless; for of what avail are familiarity with the points of play, or even a thorough knowledge of the rules of the game and of strategy, if the judgment is to be warped and marred by an uncurbed temper? Then, again, a model captain has a quiet way of doing his work, and a happy faculty of commanding obedience from his men, which tells with great effect; while an ordinary, commonplace captain simply uses his power in a way that only irritates and annoys his men, and draws from them but a sullen and reluctant obedience, at best. There is a vast difference in the quality of the field-work done by a team who only obey their captain because the penalty of disobedience is a forfeiture of salary, and that prompt assent to the captain's plans and opinions in the field-play of the team which respect and esteem for the officer in power alone exact. The possession

of power to control players is something which tempts a man to show his true disposition when he least expects it; and just here, in this one thing, comes in a test as to whether this, that or the other man is fitted to act as captain. Look at a regiment of soldiers with its ten captains, and note the difference in the actions of the companies under their command. While all are bound by army rules to a certain strict obedience to the commands of their captain, how differently are these commands obeyed! With one captain how prompt to each beck and call is every man in the ranks, while with another nothing but the letter of the law is obeyed. Just so is it in the captaincy of professional nines; and hence it is that so much importance is attached to the selection of the captain. Of course, when you have a manager who, to a certain extent, practically performs many of the duties of field-captain, the nominal captain becomes the mere vehicle for carrying out the behests of the man really at the head. But in cases where the manager is not sufficiently posted to interfere with the field-work in a match, then the selection of the captain becomes a very important matter.

A captain of a professional nine the moment he accepts the responsibility of the position should make all realize the fact that he alone is captain, and not allow himself to be dictated to or interfered with either by influential members, ambitious directors, or officious presidents. To listen to their advice or sug-

gestions is one thing. But to be requested to do this or that against his own convictions is altogether a different thing.

There is another thing to be taken into consideration in selecting the team captain, and that is to let your choice be guided by the ability a certain player possesses for ruling his men by showing that he takes an interest in their personal welfare; to that extent, in fact, that it is a pleasure to him to see them excel in their work. It is only this that will elicit that willing obedience which yields the best returns. It should be borne in mind that no player can captain a nine without giving umbrage to his men in some way or other; the exigencies of the game involve the commission of errors of one kind or another to an extent that will give rise to censure, perhaps unjust rebuke, too, at times; but when this censure comes from a captain who is known to do his best for his men, it only temporarily annoys, and frequently is silently passed by. Not so when an arbitrary, hot-tempered captain has control; then the natural result is an effort of his men to "get square with him," even at the cost of some point in the game being lost; and with this follows that feeling of ill-will and discord which is death alike to discipline and effective play.

One thing is very essential to look out for in organizing a team and selecting a captain, and that is to see that there be no rivals for the office in the ranks. In other words, avoid having ex-captains or ex-managers in your team; or if this cannot be avoided,

see to it that the loop-hole be left for the ambitious hopes of preferment by the ex-captain or manager in the team who has been obliged to accept a subordinate position. Another important matter for consideration is that the player selected for captain should possess determination of character. An effective captain must know no such word as vacillation. The captain who hesitates is lost. Let him be a man who, after once having decided, abides by that decision; not, of course, with that mule-like obstinacy which admits of no advice or instruction, but with that prompt determination which marks a man of strong character.

Still one more point, and we have done with our model captain. While it is, of course, proper that the captain should be held to a due responsibility for the conduct of his men on the field—the club-manager should attend to them off the field—this should only be done when he is given full power to act, and not when he is made only nominally captain through the interference of the manager, or some club official, or stockholder, who, by his petting of one or more men of the team, practically nullifies the orders of the captain. To place a man in command of a nine and then allow this, that or the other club official to instruct players what to do in the field, or to insist upon the men being placed or appointed to their respective positions in opposition to the captain's wishes, at the same time holding the captain responsible for the faulty play of so badly governed a team, is a gross

act of injustice. The fact is, no club team can be successfully organized or properly run while the club board of directors or any other club officials are allowed to interfere outside the line of their special duties. The club manager finds his duties confined to the disbursement of expenses, the collection of receipts, and the looking-after the general welfare of the team, and, in fact, "running the team" outside of the field, while the captain runs the team on the field, and there only. Now, it will be readily seen that the requisites alluded to above are such as but few players possess.

The captain of a nine should give all his instructions to players quietly, and especially should reprimands be avoided on the field before the public. No player likes censure at any time, but he will bear it patiently when deserved, and profit by it, too, but not unless it is done quietly, and to himself. Captains should especially bear in mind the important fact that fielding errors carry with them their own punishment, and that openly censuring a man for muffing a ball or failing to throw accurately is the very worst plan for preventing its repetition. A fielder will do his best for his own sake, and no amount of censure will improve him if he does not. If a fielder errs in a point of play, or in his interpretation of a rule, that is different; but if he muffs a ball, fails to catch it, or throws wildly, such errors had best be passed by in silence, or censure be kept back until the player can be rebuked in private.

In choosing a captain, avoid both the man who has no self-control, is quick of temper, dictatorial in his manner, and too fond of having this and that done simply because it is his desire that it should be so; and also the man who is easily influenced, possesses no determination of character, is afraid of censure, and who is too desirous of pleasing friends to act for the best interests of his club.

Some men command the best services of those who are under their control by a happy faculty of combining a kindly interest and pleasant way in dealing with subordinates, with a determination of character which admits of no disobedience when a request is earnestly made. To do this is an essential in the qualifications of the captain of a nine. Your arbitrary martinets command only a discontented obedience from their men; there is no heart-service in their work, and this latter is especially necessary in a well-organized nine. To get a professional nine into good working condition, so as to develop all the strong points of the individual players, and at the same time train them up to work as a harmonious whole, is a task requiring sound judgment and that determined spirit which overcomes all obstacles by the mere strength of steady perseverance in the right cause.

THE BEST FIELDING AVERAGES OF 1885.

The following are the fielding averages of the players of the National League who took part in over fifty games of the League championship series in 1885. Those of the pitchers are not given, as the figures of the fielding averages of pitchers in the official tables are mixed up with those of assistance on strikes, and these have nothing to do with a pitcher's fielding, and therefore the official record in this respect is incorrect as far as it aims to be a criterion of good fielding.

CATCHERS.

NAME.	CLUB.	GAMES.	PER CENT.
Bennett	Detroit	61	.891
Flint	Chicago	67	.862
Ewing	New York	67	.845
Deasley	" "	54	.840
Gilligan	Providence	65	.805
Myers	Buffalo	69	.791
Briody	St. Louis	59	.773

FIRST BASEMEN.

NAME.	CLUB.	GAMES.	PER CENT.
Brouthers	Buffalo	98	.978
McKinnon	St. Louis	100	.977
Connor	New York	110	.975
Farrar	Philadelphia	111	.974
McQueery	Detroit	69	.973
Start	Providence	101	.972
Morrill	Buffalo	92	.970
Anson	Chicago	112	.958

SECOND BASEMEN.

NAME.	CLUB.	GAMES.	PER CENT.
Richardson	Buffalo	50	.928
Dunlap	St. Louis	106	.924
Gerhardt	New York	112	.916
Crane	Detroit	68	.904
Farrell	Providence	68	.897
Pfeffer	Chicago	109	.888
Myers	Philadelphia	93	.885

THIRD BASEMEN.

NAME.	CLUB.	GAMES.	PER CENT.
White	Buffalo	98	.893
Williamson	Chicago	113	.884
Caskins	St. Louis	68	.880
Esterbrook	New York	84	.865
Sutton	Boston	91	.863
Denny	Providence	83	.862
Donnelly	Detroit	55	.848
Mulvey	Philadelphia	106	.843

SHORT STOPS.

NAME.	CLUB.	GAMES.	PER CENT.
Glasscock	St. Louis	109	.912
Ward	New York	111	.890
Bastian	Philadelphia	103	.887
Irwin	Providence	58	.866
Wise	Boston	79	.861
Burns	Chicago	112	.849
Rowe	Buffalo	65	.842

OUT-FIELDERS.

NAME.	CLUB.	GAMES.	PER CENT.
Fogarty	Philadelphia	88	.940
Gillespie	New York	102	.923
O'Rourke	" "	112	.921
Andrews	Philadelphia	98	.919
Shafer	St. Louis	69	.918
Manning	Philadelphia	107	.911
Thompson	Detroit	62	.898
Manning	Boston	83	.897
Dorgan	New York	88	.896
Quinn	St. Louis	57	.896
Dalrymple	Chicago	113	.889
Gore	"	109	.888
Seery	St. Louis	59	.888
Carroll	Providence	104	.886
Crowley	Buffalo	92	.885
Wood	Detroit	70	.881
Hanlon	"	104	.871
Lillie	Buffalo	111	.871
Radford	Providence	89	.863
Hines	"	92	.861
Kelly	Chicago	70	.859
Poorman	Boston	56	.842

THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION.

The following are the best averages of the players of the American Association who took part in fifty championship games and over in 1885.

CATCHERS.

NAME.	CLUB.	GAMES.	PER CENT.
Milligan	Athletic	61	.936
Bushong	St. Louis	85	.933
Traffley	Baltimore	63	.927
Carroll	Allegheny	61	.915
Reipschlager	Metropolitan	61	.865

FIRST BASEMEN.

NAME.	CLUB.	GAMES.	PER CENT.
Scott.....	Allegheny.....	55	.984
Phillips.....	Brooklyn..	100	.976
Orr.....	Metropolitan.....	107	.974
Field.....	Allegheny & Balto.	94	.973
Comisky.....	St. Louis.....	83	.973
Stearns.....	Baltimore.....	63	.970
Stovey.....	Athletic.....	81	.969
Reilly.....	Cincinnati.....	106	.967
Kerins.....	Louisville.....	97	.954

SECOND BASEMEN.

NAME.	CLUB.	GAMES.	PER CENT.
Barkley ...	St. Louis	97	.941
Smith.....	Allegheny.....	106	.924
McPhee.....	Cincinnati.....	110	.923
Foster.....	Metropolitan.....	52	.919
Pinckney.....	Brooklyn.....	57	.901
McClennan.....	".....	56	.899
Stricker, ..	Athletic.....	105	.893
McLaughlin.....	Louisville.....	92	.887

THIRD BASEMEN.

NAME.	CLUB.	GAMES	PER CENT.
Hankinson.....	Metropolitan.....	95	.912
Corey.....	Athletic.....	95	.896
McClennan.....	Brooklyn.....	57	.894
Muldoon.....	Baltimore.....	101	.891
Latham.....	St. Louis.....	109	.878
Pinckney.....	Brooklyn.....	52	.869
Kuehne.....	Allegheny.....	99	.868
Carpenter.....	Cincinnati.....	112	.861
Reccius.....	Louisville.....	100	.838

SHORT STOPS.

NAME.	CLUB.	GAMES.	PER CENT.
Whitney	Allegheny	79	.943
Miller.....	Louisville	76	.919
Nelson.....	Metropolitan.....	107	.907
Smith.....	Brooklyn	109	.900
Gleason.....	St. Louis	112	.883
Macullar.....	Baltimore.....	98	.883
Fennelly	Cincinnati	112	.880
Houck	Athletic	92	.866

LEFT FIELDERS.

NAME.	CLUB.	GAMES.	PER CENT.
Sommer.....	Baltimore.....	107	.9 9
Maskrey	Louisville	109	.901
O'Neill.....	St. Louis	51	.897
Purcell.....	Athletic	66	.886
Kennedy	Metropolitan.....	95	.870
Jones	Cincinnati	112	.869
Robinson.....	St. Louis.....	61	.858
Eden.....	Allegheny.....	96	.809

CENTER FIELDERS.

NAME.	CLUB.	GAMES.	PER CENT.
Welch	St. Louis	112	.959
Larkin	Athletic	61	.924
Mann.....	Allegheny	97	.915
Hotaling.....	Brooklyn	95	.900
Browning.....	Louisville	113	.898
Roseman.....	Metropolitan.....	100	.890
Clinton.....	Cincinnati	105	.879
Casey	Baltimore.....	65	.825

RIGHT FIELDERS.

NAME.	CLUB.	GAMES.	PER CENT.
Corkhill	Cincinnati	106	.935
Nicol.	St. Louis	111	.905
Wolt	Louisville	112	.905
Brady	Metropolitan	104	.894
Cassidy	Brooklyn	54	.858
Coleman	Athletic	89	.852
Brown	Allegheny	107	.847

THE EASTERN LEAGUE.

The following are the best fielding averages of the Eastern League players in championship games for 1885.

CATCHERS.

NAME.	CLUB.	GAMES.	PER CENT.
Cook	National	34	.927
Grady	Newark	35	.927
Fulmer	National	42	.920
McCloskey	Trenton	38	.910
Hafford	Lancaster	35	.900
Tate	Virginia	43	.894
Oldfield	Lancaster	35	.878
Cuff	Jersey City	33	.837

FIRST BASEMEN.

NAME.	CLUB.	GAMES.	PER CENT.
Baker	National	59	.970
Flannagan	Bridgeport	30	.968
Mack	Lancaster	50	.965
Walker	Newark	58	.962
Parnell	Norfolk	71	.948
Latham	Virginia	92	.943
Ford	Jersey City	42	.920

SECOND BASEMEN.

NAME.	CLUB.	GAMES.	PER CENT.
Higgins	Virginia	85	.930
Holland	Lancaster.....	75	.910
Jones.....	Newark	83	.906
Jacobs.....	Norfolk	40	.906
Knowles	National.....	91	.881
Brouthers	Trenton.....	40	.878
McLaughlin	Jersey City	74	.875

THIRD BASEMEN.

NAME.	CLUB.	GAMES.	PER CENT.
Nash	Virginia	73	.889
Shindal	Wilmington.....	63	.860
Hatfield	Newark	74	.855
Gladman	National	84	.851
Carl....	Norfolk.....	37	.839
Donald.....	Lancaster.....	68	.833
Secatt	Trenton	61	.833
McCormick.....	Jersey City	39	.750

SHORT STOPS.

NAME.	CLUB.	GAMES.	PER CENT.
L. Smith	Newark	94	.893
Tomney	Lancaster.....	67	.885
Mathias	Norfolk.....	33	.885
White	National.....	95	.878
Lang.....	Jersey City.....	48	.875
Carl.....	Norfolk	30	.875
Greenward	Virginia	78	.871
Kappel	Wilmington.....	38	.859

LEFT FIELDERS.

NAME.	CLUB.	GAMES.	PER CENT.
Burch	National	55	.927
Glenn	Virginia	82	.905
Beecher	Bridgeport	30	.903
Johnston	Virginia	67	.901
Reccius	Trenton	86	.854
Jacoby	Norfolk	33	.840
Moore	National	67	.800
Birchall	Newark	33	.793
Parker	Lancaster	82	.790
Johnston	Wilmington	31	.772

CENTER FIELDERS.

NAME.	CLUB.	GAMES.	PER CENT.
McTamany	Lancaster	67	.904
Casey	Newark	41	.878
Hoover	National	84	.856
Shack	Wilmington	30	.815
Kemzla	Trenton	44	.760

RIGHT FIELDERS.

NAME.	CLUB.	GAMES.	PER CENT.
Brouthers	Trenton	45	.902
Corcoran	Virginia	57	.890
Gallegan	Norfolk	69	.880
Tiernan	Trenton	45	.865
Powell	National	57	.800

THE SOUTHERN LEAGUE.

The following are the averages of players of the

Southern League who took part in over thirty championship games in 1885.

CATCHERS.

NAME.	CLUB.	GAMES.	PER CENT.
Gillen.....	Macon.....	31	.972
Hellman.....	Nashville.....	48	.965
Cox.....	Coattanooga.....	36	.959
Tracy.....	Birmingham.....	36	.956
Mappis.....	Atlanta.....	34	.953
Roxbury.....	Augusta.....	57	.944
Bullar.....	Chattanooga.....	47	.940
Srrauss.....	Columbus.....	40	.923
McVey.....	Atlanta.....	40	.921

FIRST BASEMEN.

NAME.	CLUB.	GAMES.	PER CENT.
Andrews.....	Columbus.....	84	.968
Harbridge.....	Augusta.....	73	.967
W. O'Brien.....	Memphis.....	35	.964
Lever.....	Macon.....	72	.962
Stevens.....	Macon.....	37	.958
Henke.....	Atlanta.....	73	.954
Sowdem.....	Nashville.....	80	.948

SECOND BASEMEN.

NAME.	CLUB.	GAMES.	PER CENT.
Mack.....	Macon.....	89	.930
Heard.....	Augusta.....	57	.929
Bittman.....	Atlanta.....	97	.922
Geiss.....	Memphis.....	57	.903
Ollerson.....	Chattanooga.....	91	.896
H. Collins.....	Columbus.....	87	.895
Coridon.....	Birmingham.....	36	.887
Kellogg.....	Nashville.....	47	.864

THIRD BASEMAN.

NAME.	CLUB.	GAMES.	PER CENT.
McSorley	Memphis	39	.894
Lyons	Columbus	93	.874
H. Kappell	Augusta	30	.847
Werrick	Nashville	38	.846
Leary	Augusta	67	.837
Steinhoff	Memphis	48	.837
Hillery	Nashville	44	.822
Harris	Chattanooga	30	.816
Barber	Birmingham	41	.812
Cleveland	Atlanta	85	.811

SHORT STGGS.

NAME.	CLUB.	GAMES.	PER CENT.
Miller	Columbus	40	.917
Cross	Memphis	87	.871
Walsh ..	Macon	52	.871
Cline	Columbus	30	.871
Beard	Nashville	61	.860
Doyle	Memphis	31	.838
Cahill	Atlanta	86	.836
J. Collins	Macon	47	.820
Roche	Birmingham	84	.803
Esterday	Augusta	90	.783

LEFT FIELDERS.

NAME.	CLUB.	GAMES.	PER CENT.
Donnelly	Augusta	31	.967
Zell	Macon	34	.927
Hamburg	Columbus	72	.889
C. L. Murphy	Birmingham	83	.882
Goldsby	Atlanta	56	.825
Ryn	Chattanooga	54	.794
Behl	Augusta	44	.789

CENTER FIELDERS.

NAME.	CLUB.	GAMES.	PER CENT.
Deistel	Nashville	60	.973
Graham.....	Memphis	34	.911
Lavin.....	Macon.....	76	.878
Sylvester	Memphis	54	.841
Gilks..	Chattanooga	47	.876
McLaughlin.....	Memphis	56	.873

RIGHT FIELDERS.

NAME.	CLUB.	GAMES.	PER CENT.
Peltz.....	Macon.....	75	.884
Sneed.....	Nashville	43	.884
Seigle.....	Chattanooga	39	.873
Goldsby.....	Atlanta.....	47	.771

TECHNICAL TERMS IN FIELDING.

ASSISTING.—A fielder “assists” when he throws a ball to the baseman on which the base runner is put out, or in any other way assists a fielder to put a player out.

BASEMEN.—These are the players who occupy the positions of first, second and third basemen.

CAUGHT NAPPING.—A base runner is said to be “caught napping” when a base player or a fielder happens to touch him with the ball while standing off his base; or when caught between two bases in trying to reach another base.

DOUBLE PLAY.—A double play is made when the fielders put out two men with the ball after it has been hit and before it is pitched to the bat again, or if two players be put out between the time the ball is sent to the bat, and before it is again delivered.

DROPPED BALLS.—Any fly ball batted or thrown to a fielder, which is dropped by him before it is settled in his hands, is a “dropped” ball and should be charged as an error, unless batted or thrown with unusual speed.

FLY TIP.—This is a foul ball held by the catcher, sharp from the bat.

FOUL FLY.—Any high ball held on the fly is called a foul fly. They are the most difficult fly balls to hold sent from the bat, on account of the “twist” they have imparted to them by the bat.

FLY CATCHES.—All balls held by fielders from the bat before the ball touches the ground, no matter how, or in what manner they are held, or whether held from the hands of another fielder, are legitimate “fly catches.”

HOT-BALLS.—A “hot” ball is one which is either thrown or hit to a fielder with great speed.

IN-FIELDERS.—The in-fielders of the party of nine in a match consist of the catcher, pitcher, short-stop, and the three basemen.

MUFFED BALLS.—A ball is “muffed” when the fielder fails to stop it as it comes within his reach, or to pick it up and hold it, so as to throw it in time; or to hold it when it is thrown to him accurately, unless unusually swift.

MUFFINS.—This is a term applied to the poorest class of fielders. A player may be able to hit long balls, and to make home runs, and yet for all that be a veritable muffin, from the simple fact that he cannot field, catch, or throw a ball decently. “Muffins” are the lowest in the class of club nines.

OUT-FIELDERS.—The three out-fielders in a nine are the left, center and right fielders, all of whom ought to be able to throw a ball a hundred yards or more.

OVER THROWS.—Any fielder throwing a ball out of the reach of the player he is throwing to is to be charged with an “over throw.”

PASSED BALLS.—Whenever the catcher allows a ball to pass him on which a base is run, or should he muff a ball, and a base be run in consequence, he is to be charged with a passed ball. No ball can be charged as “passed,” that is not within fair reach.

RIGHT SHORT.—This is the name of the position in the field occupied by the player in a game, who stands in a similar position between second and third to that of the regular short-stop. It is the second baseman’s position when fielding for batsmen who hit to right field.

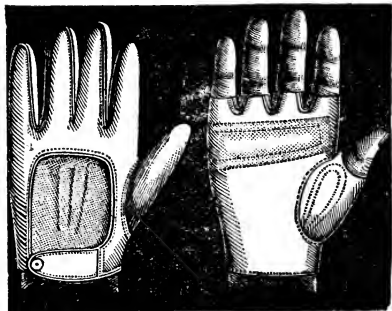
RUN OUT.—The fielders run an opponent out when they touch him while he is half way, or nearly so, between the bases. The fielder who touches him is credited with putting him out, and the one who passed the ball to such fielder is credited with “assisting.”

RUNNING CATCH.—These catches are among the prettiest a fielder can make. They are made when the ball is held on the fly while the fielder is on the run.

TRIPLE PLAY.—Whenever three players are put out by the fielders after a ball has been pitched to the bat, and before it is again sent to the bat, a triple play is made.

WILD THROWS.—A wild throw is made when a ball is thrown by one fielder to another out of the legitimate reach of the fielder the ball is thrown to.

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After considerable expense and many experiments, we have finally perfected a Catchers' Glove that meets with general favor from professional catchers.

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THE NEW ENGLAND LEAGUE.

Composed of Boston, Haverhill, Newburyport, Lawrence, Portland, and Brockton.

THE EASTERN LEAGUE.

Composed of Newark, Jersey City, Waterbury, Bridgeport, Hartford, Providence and Troy.

THE INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE.

Composed of Utica, Rochester, Syracuse, Binghamton, Oswego, Buffalo, Hamilton and Toronto, Ont.

THE NORTHWESTERN LEAGUE,

THE WESTERN LEAGUE,

THE AMERICAN COLLEGE ASS'N,

THE NORTHWESTERN COLLEGE ASS'N.

THE NEW YORK INTER STATE COLLEGE ASS'N.

We refer with considerable pride to the following Resolution unanimously adopted at the recent annual meeting of the American College Association, held at Springfield, Mass., March 12, 1886.

Resolved, that the American College Association in unanimously adopting Spalding's League Ball for 1886, express their great satisfaction which this ball gave the Association last year, and also cheerfully indorse it as the best ball they have ever used."

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No. 00.—Spalding's Special Black Band League Bat , made out of the choicest white selected, second growth ash, on the most approved models, as recommended and used by League players. Each bat is carefully weighed, and the weight stamped in ounces under the Trade Mark. Each Bat is encased in a strong paper bag, lathe polished, and guaranteed to be the finest bat made. Having purchased the patent of Wm. Gray, of Hartford, Conn., covering the use of a granulated handle, and believing it to have great merit in preventing the hand from slipping, we have decided to use it on this grade of bats.....	\$ 75	\$8 00
No. 0.—Spalding's Black Band League Bat , made on the most approved model, as recommended by prominent League players. These bats are made from the best selected ash, lathe polished, weighed and stamped, each bat encased in a strong paper bag.....	50	5 50
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No. 3B.—Spalding's Trade Marked Boys' Basswood Bats , finished same as No. 3, 30 to 34 inches.....	25	2 50
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No. 6.—Men's Ash , Plain finish, ass'd length, 36 to 39 in.	\$ 25	\$1 50
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